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Golf course management served with Breach of Condition Notice over unapproved depositing of infill material

WEST Lancs Council has served a Breach of Condition Notice on the management at Beacon Park Golf Course, Serco, after work, which involved material being deposited, was found to be "significantly different" from that shown on the approved plans.

The notice relates particularly to the profiling of the former driving range area at the course in Up Holland.

It has been found that the maximum height allowed under the original planning consent has been exceeded, with the quantity of infill which should have been added over the whole site, being concentrated in one area.

The alleged breach is the latest incident in a five-year saga at the course since Serco took on the management of the facility but outsourced the work to Oaklands Leisure.

This prompted residents to complain that there was "little scrutiny or oversight of the type or quantity of the materials being dumped" at the course, nor the money being made by sub-contractors.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has raised these issues with both the borough council and Serco chiefs on several occasions previously and most recently met with the local authority's deputy directors of leisure and housing and inclusion.

She said: "What has been going on with Beacon Park Golf Course over many years has been a disgrace and it is timely that action is at last being taken to rectify the situation, but this doesn't end the matter.

Report by **Henry James**

"I will continue to pursue this as there should be proper accountability by those who made these poor decisions which I believe led to a loss of revenue to WLBC and its council taxpayers, from both the course and the proceeds from the amount of rubble and waste materials which have been dumped.

"Serco will now have six months to comply with the breach of condition notice and remove material from the area around the driving range and the foot golf area. I have asked to meet with Serco directors to get to the bottom of what really has gone on."

A spokesman for West Lancs Council responded: "The council can confirm that it has issued a 'Breach of Condition Notice' in relation to the former driving range area due to the works on site being significantly different from that shown on the plans approved by the council.

"Material has been deposited in three locations on the golf course, the former driving range, alongside the first fairway and the new nine-hole golf course.

Beacon Park Golf Course.

"While the total amount of material deposited on the golf course is within the limits allowed under the planning consent, larger amounts of material have been deposited than shown on the approved plans in the areas in question.

"It is only in the case of the former driving range, however, that the non-compliance with the approved plan is deemed so significant as to warrant the council taking action.

"During the deposit of material, the council contacted the Environment Agency to ensure that proper monitoring of the type of material being brought on to the site was in place.

"The council has been in discussions with the site operator, Serco, and they have undertaken to take the actions required to overcome the council's concerns and to remedy the breach of planning control. The deputy directors of leisure and wellbeing and development and regeneration met recently with the MP to inform her of the latest position and the action being taken.

"The council fully expects a positive

Continued inside

Mother and daughter still suffer impact of Manchester bomb a year on

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A WEST Lancs primary school teacher and her daughter who got caught up in the Manchester Arena bombing last year have described its lasting impact and how a year on it's still too difficult to attend crowded areas.

A memorial service was held at Manchester Cathedral last Tuesday (May 22) on the anniversary of the atrocity, to remember the victims.

A community sing-a-long was also held, featuring the Manchester Survivors Choir, made of people who were present at the concert but survived.

Alison Aitken a teacher at Bickerstaffe CE Primary, and her daughter Chloe who attended the fateful concert are members of the choir.

However, they say they were not yet ready to attend crowded areas and chose instead to remember the victims by going on a sponsored walk to Mount Snowdon to fundraise for the Manchester Survivors Appeal. They also took part in the Manchester 10K run.

Pupils from the school have also been supporting Alison with her fundraising.

Suicide bomber Salman Ramadan Abedi detonated a homemade device as concert goers were leaving the Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena and 22 people were killed.

The explosion happened as Alison, who lives in Aughton, and Chloe reached the foyer doors and whilst they were they were both uninjured physically, they say the emotional and psychological impact of what they saw and experienced, is still "immense."

Continued inside

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Choir's charity concert bow

A NEW choir started up in September last year, is all set for its first public outing at a fundraising concert on Friday, June 1 at St Mark's Church, Southport Road, Scarisbrick.

The Consolette Choir, which meets every Tuesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm at Burscough's Stanley Club, was set up by Joanne Fairclough, a pianist and music teacher.

The new group will be performing 'An 'Evening of Light Popular Music' featuring a variety of popular and folk songs with the chance for the audience to have a sing-a-long.

There will be solo performances by members of the choir and also by some of Joanne's students.

Proceeds from the concert will go towards the upkeep of St Mark's Church and tickets, priced £5, can be ordered from Joanne on 07791 461739 or 01704 896824; or you can pay on the door.

Funding boost for programme to support people at risk of suicide

LOCAL communities across Lancashire and South Cumbria could benefit from a major national investment aimed at supporting people at risk of suicide.

The Department for Health and Social Care, Public Health England (PHE), and NHS England have announced the start of a three-year programme worth £25 million that will reach the whole country by 2021.

It forms part of the government's commitment to reduce suicides in England by 10 per cent by 2021 and will support the zero suicide ambition for mental health inpatients announced by Secretary of State, Jeremy Hunt in January.

Currently, one person dies by suicide every 90 minutes in the UK, and approximately two thirds of them are not in contact with mental health services.

Lancashire and South Cumbria is one of eight regions set to receive £1.2m in funding. The money will be used in the next two years to deliver locally targeted prevention campaigns for men; psychological support for people with financial difficulties; better care after discharge; and improved self-harm services for all ages.

Paul Hopley, programme director for Mental Health at Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria

It is hoped the funding will improve suicide prevention strategies by signposting and raising awareness, through to improving quality for safer services and will help drive better surveillance and collection of data on suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm.

Paul Hopley, programme director for Mental Health at Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria, said: "Raising awareness of suicide and ensuring those in need receive the right support, at the right time, is a key priority for us.

Devastating

"As a local commissioner, I see the devastating impact that suicide can have on a family and community. Locally, we want to help raise awareness of the support that is available to those at most risk and help show there is another way."

If you are worried that you, or someone you know is at risk of suicide, there is 24/7 help available. Let family or friends know; or speak to your GP or NHS 111, who can direct you to a local service for advice.

Alternatively ring Samaritans on 116 123; Campaign Against Living Miserably (for men) on 0800 58 58 58 (5pm to midnight every day); or Childline (for children and young people under 19), on 0800 11 11.

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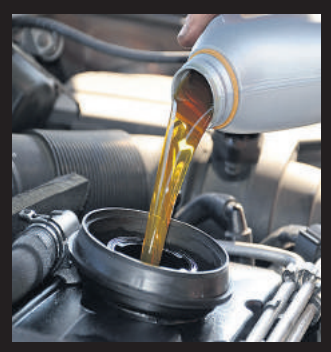

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Council serves breach of contract notice on golf course management

From Page 1

resolution of the matter. If however, the Breach of Condition notice is not fully complied with, then the council would need to decide on what action to take in response.

"The council's decision in this regard will ultimately depend on what progress had been made by Serco to resolve the breach of planning control at that point in time and their proposals and timescale for addressing any outstanding matters."

Mark Snaylam, contract manager for West Lancashire Community Leisure Ltd., said: "We acknowledge receipt of the 'Breach of Condition Notice' and we are currently working with the Local Authority Planning Team to comply with the conditions of the notice.

"We have met with MP Rosie Cooper previously and we reassure her of our intentions to comply fully with the requirements of the council."

Cancer survivor's praise for 'brilliant' hospital staff

Pensioner's tumour removed a day after stomach pains diagnosed and ongoing support aided good recovery

A PENSIONER who underwent life-saving surgery to remove a cancerous tumour has praised the "brilliant" staff at the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and the after-care he has continued to receive since.

John Bailey from Aughton went to the West Lancashire NHS walk-in centre at Ormskirk Hospital in May last year after suffering with recurring stomach pains for two weeks.

An x-ray showed he had a tumour in his gut and he was sent to Southport Hospital for surgery.

The cancerous growth was removed from his bowel the next day and he has since made a good recovery, recently returning from a family holiday in France.

John, who turns 80 next month, said: "The care I received was brilliant and everything was explained in such simple language by Mr Harish Babu and Mr Krishnan Gokul.

"They were so comforting. I couldn't have wished for a better health service."

And hospital staff and Macmillan Cancer Support are continuing to monitor and give advice and guidance to John through telephone conversations, as well as informal monthly meetings of a colorectal support group.

Cancer survivor John Bailey has praised the care he has received from the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust both during and after his treatment

He said: "I really benefit from the monthly meetings. It gives you an opportunity to sit down and talk to friendly and helpful people who have suffered exactly the same as you.

"We also sometimes meet up and go out for a meal. It's a really good network of friends who all provide support to one another."

Stacey Boden, a Macmillan cancer nurse specialist at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, added: "The group is very informal, friendly and relaxed and we have, on average, between 10 and 15 patients and family members at each session.

Advice

"We offer professional support and advice over a cup of tea.

"It's a great opportunity to meet people in a similar situation and to talk about ways of overcoming difficulties. We are even planning a day out over the summer to the Lake District."

The Colorectal Cancer Support group meets on the second Friday of each month between 1 and 3pm at The Grove Community Centre, Station Approach, Burscough (next to Burscough Bridge railway station).

The next monthly session will be held on Friday, June 8 with subsequent sessions on Fridays, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9 and December 14.

For further information ring 01704 704250.

Still affected by bomb trauma a year later

From Page 1

Being in large crowds can still be a frightening experience for them and can create feelings of being trapped. For these reasons, Alison was unable to attend an event in the Liverpool Echo Arena in January, where her youngest daughter, Isabelle, was performing in a choir.

She said: "We are learning to overcome these feelings slowly and are optimistic for the future."

Despite experiencing many difficulties as a result of that evening, Chloe has recently completed her teaching degree at Edge Hill University, with a final grade of outstanding,

Alison and Chloe have found that singing with the Manchester Survivors Choir is a great way to heal. A single, *City United*, featuring the choir, has been released to raise money.

Chloe said: "As crowds are still a bit intimidating for us, we decided to climb Snowdon on the anniversary, instead of gathering in Manchester and pushing ourselves physically, was a great way to mark the day."

The children in school also held a full-scale mock wedding to mark the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle with donations taken for refreshments served.

To date, Alison and Chloe have almost met their £500 fundraising target. To donate visit their page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/aitken-baxter.

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Outgoing Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Neil Furey and new Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert, pictured with representatives of 42nd Ormskirk (Skelmersdale St Paul's) Scouts, Evermoor Hub and The Sewing Rooms.

Mayor's near £11k boost for charities

THE outgoing Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Neil Furey, has presented cheques totalling £10,875 to charities he has supported during his year of office.

The sum was raised by Cllr. Furey and Mayoress wife, Julie, with the support of the Mayor's Charity Committee, as a result of a number of fundraising functions, including an Alternative Ascot Day at Lancashire Manor Hotel, Skelmersdale and an event with opera singer Rachael Russell and the Kelly Shirley School of Dance at the Stanley Institute in Burscough.

The Mayor's Charity Ball, also held at the Lancashire Manor, was another great success, as was Deputy Mayor, Councillor Noel Delaney's 75th birthday raffle at O'Brien's Tea Rooms in Ormskirk.

Collections at Asda, Morrison's and Booths supermakets helped to increase the total and there was also a donation from the Tawd Valley Lions.

Cllr. Furey said: "Julie and I are very grateful to everyone who has donated money to our chosen charities this year and to the hard-working members of the Mayor's Charity Committee. I have many happy memories and I hope the money will make a big difference to these very worthy causes."

One of Cllr. Furey's last duties as mayor was to present the cheques to his chosen charities, the 42nd Ormskirk (Skelmersdale St Paul's) Scouts, the Evermoor Hub and The Sewing Rooms in Skelmersdale.

Maureen Fazal, a co-director of the Sewing Rooms, said: "We are really pleased to receive this money which will go towards supporting our Silver Sewers Group. There is a lot of loneliness among older people and this group helps to combat that with many friendships forged."

Margaret Highton, director of the Evermoor Hub management team, said: "The money we have received will really help us and we have lots of ideas on how we can spend it, including improving storage space at the hub and possibly providing some courses on healthy eating."

The Scouts group will spend its donation on equipment to help young members enjoy their activities even more. Group Scout Leader, Ian Flavell, said: "We would like to thank the Mayor and everyone who has helped to raise this money which will be a really big help for our group."

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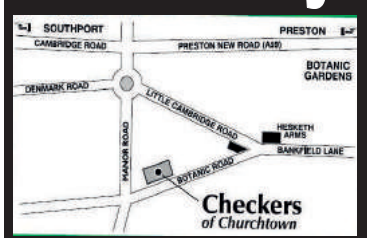

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MP seeks assurances on pledge of funding for voluntary sector

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper has written to the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and Virgin Care asking for an update on assurances made when the community care contract for the borough was awarded to the private provider that money would be made available for investment into the voluntary, community and faith sector.

She said that the West Lancs Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) had "secured an in principle agreement" that a percentage of the health contracts would be made available to local voluntary group.

And they had also won a commitment from the CCG that during 2017 there would be an additional and recurrent Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) investment fund of £100k.

Now the MP says she has been approached by local charities asking what happened to the money. She said: "Nearly two years on and things appear to have gone very quiet. Local charities have approached me for support asking what has happened to this money? Has it been distributed and if so where?"

Ms Cooper, who recently met with Disability Advice West Lancashire (DAWL) chief, Tony Lewis and his team of trustees and volunteers to discuss concerns, added: "We have got some phenomenal people and organisations here in West Lancs striving to support, advise and help some of our most vulnerable residents.

Rosie Cooper's meeting with Disability Advice West Lancashire chief, Tony Lewis and trustees and volunteers

However, cuts to funding budgets and contracts mean many struggle year-to-year and even month-to-month, to the point where they are having to consider closing down.

"Many of these charities were wooed by talk of hundreds of thousands of pounds being made available in our area following the tendering of services by West Lancashire CCG to Virgin Care, but nearly two years on no-one appears to have seen this money.

"The vice-chair of the CCG Greg Mitten, who is also chief of the CVS assured DAWL that opportunities were coming but here we are, there's no money and charities are struggling to keep going.

"I've written to the CCG, CVS and to Virgin Care to ask just where this money is and what's the plan; and urging them to get on with dishing it out before it's too late."

A spokesperson for NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "The CCG has always supported the voluntary, charitable and faith sector (VCFS) within West Lancashire and we will continue to do so.

"As a newly-created organisation one of the first actions we undertook was to provide a grant of £250,000 to the voluntary sector, as an acknowledgement of how vital its work within West Lancashire is.

"To this day we continue to invest in the third sector and strongly support the work that it does. A recent agreement to invest £100,000 is guaranteed each year, so that over 10 years this will amount to £1m of new investment.

"The CCG will work closely with third sector partners to ensure this is spent in the best possible way for the people of West Lancashire."

Police appeal for witnesses to collisions on Rainford bypass and in Burscough

Cyclist and motorbiker injured in separate incidents 24 hours apart

Report by **Kenny Parker**

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a cyclist suffered serious injuries on the A570 Rainford bypass near Ormskirk.

The incident occurred at about 11.10am on Thursday, May 24 when the bike was in a collision with a Volvo V50 which had pulled to a stop by the side of the road.

Before the accident the Volvo and the cyclist had been travelling in the same direction towards the M58.

The cyclist suffered face and spinal injuries and was taken to Aintree Hospital, where he remains in a serious but stable condition.

The road was closed for three-and-a-half hours while investigations took place.

Sergeant Lee Harris, of Lancashire Constabulary Road Policing Unit, said: "We are asking for anyone who witnessed the accident, or who may have dashcam footage to contact us as we continue to investigate this collision."

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 quoting log ref 0522 of May 24.

● Meanwhile, officers are also appealing for witnesses to a serious collision between a motorbike and a car in Burscough.

The accident, involving a Yamaha TDM 900 motorbike and a Nissan Cabstar, occurred just before 11.10am on Wednesday, May 23 at the junction of Moss Lane with Red Cat Lane.

The biker, a 46-year-old man from Eccleston, was taken by air ambulance to Aintree Hospital.

Significant injuries

A spokesperson for North West Ambulance Service said: "We were called at 11.07 to Red Cat Lane to a collision between a vehicle and a motorcycle.

"A man in his mid-40s was taken to Aintree University Hospital with pelvic and arm injuries."

Police say the road was closed for about four hours for investigation.

Sergeant Adam Crossley, of the Road Policing Unit, said: "This collision has left a man with some significant injuries and I would appeal for any witnesses to get in touch."

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 quoting log number 0457 of May 23.

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Planning row farmer launches petition against 'unfair' use of Proceeds of Crime Act

by **Danielle Thompson**

A FARMER who has been at the centre of a legal fight with West Lancashire Borough Council, has launched an online petition to campaign against Proceeds of Crime Act powers being used in planning cases.

In March, the Champion reported how Timothy Edwards, of Bannister House Farm in Tarleton had vowed to 'fight on' after a court upheld action taken by West Lancs council over breaches of planning laws.

In February 2016, Mr Edwards was ordered to pay £59,000 under the Proceeds of Crime Act at Preston Crown Court. He was also fined £3,500 and ordered to pay prosecution costs £6,000 for failing to comply with planning enforcement notices.

The council initiated the action against the farmer after officers found he was illegally storing a large number of caravans on two fields. The council advised them that all of the caravans should be removed, but he failed to do this despite enforcement notices served on him being upheld by an independent planning inspector. The Proceeds of Crime Order of £59,000 reflected the financial benefit gained by Mr Edwards as a result of his continued breach of planning control.

Tim Edwards

Mr Edwards launched an appeal challenging the fine and confiscation order, claiming both were excessive. However, earlier this year the Court of Appeal in London upheld the sentence given to Mr Edwards. He must now pay the full amount, plus interest on the Proceeds of Crime Act Order of £7,981.

He has launched his petition 'Stop Proceeds of Crime Act powers from being used in planning cases' on the UK Government and Parliament Petitions site.

Mr Edwards told the Champion: "We must change the law to stop local authorities using powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act in planning cases. The POCA was intended to be used to seize assets of drug dealers and arms dealers - serious criminals. Local authorities must be prevented from using it against people for breaching planning laws.

"My family are a farming family. Due to an alleged planning infraction and an enforcement order that escalated, the powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act can be used to take assets that my family has worked for all of our lives. For our assets, up to and including the family home, to be called a 'proceed of crime' is unjust, immoral and deeply unfair."

He plans to make an appeal on the ruling to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, who can take it back to the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court.

He added: "I am just a farmer running a caravan business from his own land. I will be appealing again and will take it to the Supreme Court if that's what it takes."

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Action plan forced on Northern Rail to improve services

Transport body concern about 'inadequate performance'

Report by **Henry James**

NORTHERN Rail has been forced to accept an action plan to improve its poor levels of service.

Transport for the North and the Department for Transport, acting through the Rail North Partnership, are concerned with Northern's 'inadequate performance' in running the franchise and growing unrest from fed-up passengers.

A 'timetable recovery plan' has now been put in place by Northern in response to the current performance issues which it is hoped will restore services to 'acceptable levels of reliability at the earliest opportunity.'

The Champion reported last week how new timetables had brought misery to passengers throughout the region, including those using the West Lancashire line from Southport to Manchester and stations at Bescar Lane, New Lane, Burscough Bridge, Hoscar, Parbold and Appley Bridge.

Barry White, chief executive of Transport for the North, said: "We are extremely disappointed and concerned with the inadequate performance of Northern.

Barry White, chief executive of Transport for the North

"We have received a timetable recovery plan from Northern to address these concerns and improve the rail experience for passengers. Both Transport for the North and the Department for Transport, through the Rail North Partnership, will be monitoring progress against the plan on a daily basis."

Northern's Action Plan includes:

•Improving driver rostering to get more trains running now.

•Increasing driver training on new routes to get more services on line as quickly as possible.

•Additional contingency drivers and management presence at key locations in Manchester.

•Putting extra peak services in the timetable along the Bolton corridor, including between Buckshaw and Manchester Victoria, and Preston and Manchester Oxford Road.

In ensuring the effective implementation of the plan with Northern, the Rail North Partnership will, they say, be focusing on the following key measures:

•Calling on Northern to improve early communication of service disruptions to the public.

•Strengthening resources within The Rail North Partnership Team to ensure Northern's Action Plan can be closely monitored throughout its implementation.

•Daily calls between the train companies and Network Rail to manage the operational elements of running the new timetable.

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OAP denied feet treatment after health service shake-up - claim

A PENSIONER has claimed that since Virgin Care took over West Lancashire Adult Community Services she is no longer entitled to have health services take care of her feet.

Joyce Hampson (pictured), who lives in Burscough, says she would attend the podiatry service, which is given at Burscough Health Centre, every six weeks to have her toe nails cut and also have her corns treated.

However, following a recent assessment she was told that she is no longer eligible for the service and would either need to do it herself or pay to have it done privately.

The running of the community health services was handed over to Virgin Care in May of 2017.

The company says that it is abiding by rules laid down by the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Joyce says that following treatment for breast cancer nine years ago all of her nails fell out.

She is also prescribed anticoagulant Warfarin, which inhibits blood clotting, after an illness in Las Vegas in 2006 which put her on life support machine for a week.

She said: "The last time I had my feet taken care of I was told they don't want people coming to get their nails or corns done there anymore." West Lancashire Adult Community Services said that while they do not advise on or run private health care services in West Lancashire, podiatrists will do their best to signpost people to receive the care they need.

A spokesperson said: "While we cannot comment on individual cases, nor what the previous provider was commissioned to deliver, the local NHS in West Lancashire has commissioned us to provide nail cutting only where there is a medical need.

"We would encourage Joyce and anyone with concerns to contact us directly so that we can investigate and resolve their issue."

A spokesperson from NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: "If Joyce contacts Virgin Care on they can investigate the issue. Alternatively, she can contact the CCG directly who will also look into the concerns raised".

Sunday rail service to run on Ormskirk line

THERE will be a Sunday service operating on the Ormskirk to Preston railway line while engineering work takes place at Liverpool Lime Street Station which will be partially closed for several weeks.

The service will operate every Sunday from June 3 up to and including July 29.

There will be six services with the first leaving Ormskirk at 11.35am and the last at 19.35pm.

The first train from Preston will be at 10.42am and the last service at 19.35am.

OPSTA (Ormskirk Preston and Southport Travellers Association) will be conducting passenger counts and a survey about the popularity of the service as they are pressing Northern Rail to operate a permanent Sunday service.

One OPSTA member said: "What will it take for Government to realise that folks want to travel by train on a Sunday all the time, year in year out?

"They don't close Motorways on a Sunday!"

Passengers should be aware that Northern Rail services have recently been severely disrupted by the imposition of new timetables in the region.

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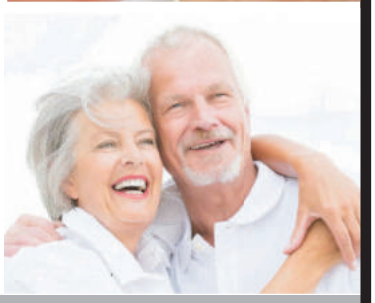

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Civic reception and awards for borough's outstanding volunteers

THE Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubbert, will host a reception and awards evening for volunteers of the West Lancs CVS who have achieved 100 and 200 hours of volunteering and for outstanding contribution to volunteering over the past year on Thursday, May 31 at the council chamber in Derby Street, Ormskirk, starting at 6.30pm.

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Tommy, Marion, Evelyn, Derek and Keith Ascroft pictured in front of the sign showing the store's original phone number.

Family corn merchants call time on store after 180 years in business

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A FAMILY-run business in West Lancashire is set to close after 180 years of trading.

Corn merchants and grocers, T. Ascroft and Sons, of Marshes Lane, Mere Brow, is run by brothers Thomas, 74, Derek, 73, and Keith, 70, along with Thomas and Derek's wives, Marion and Evelyn.

But the family are now retiring and the business and shop will close for good on Saturday, June 2.

Thomas (known as Tommy), who also lives in the village, is the fourth Thomas in the family and one of a fourth generation of Ascrofts to run the business, which was opened in 1838.

The brothers run the corn merchants side of the business, selling pet food, while the wives run the shop, which sells pies and sandwiches.

Customers travel from Formby and Southport to buy food for horses, dogs, chickens and other pets and many of them have been using Ascrofts for half a century.

An indication of how long the shop has been a fixture in the local community, is a sign which the family have kept showing its original phone number from when the telephone was first introduced, number 56!

As the number of people using the technology increased Tommy says they have kept adding numbers to the phone number so that it now reads as 812256.

Now that they are retiring, Tommy says the family plans to sell the shop building which will be kept as a feature in the village but revert to being used as a house.

The surrounding land will be sold for housing, however.

"We have built up a lot of loyal customers over the years," he said, "and quite a lot of them are long-term customers.

"I had one lady yesterday who said she is 65 and has been dealing with us for 50 years.

"I will miss the people who come around because we have known most of them that long."

Meanwhile, a notice at the store simply says: "We would like to thank all our customers for trading with us over the years."

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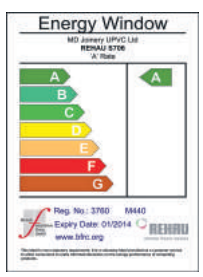

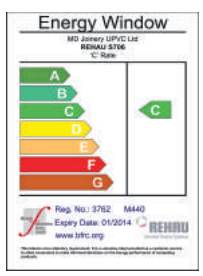

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Borough Labour group celebrates achieving 'gender equality' on council - well, almost!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

New councillors Vickie Cummins, Sue Evans, and Kath Lockie at the vote count at the recent elections with new Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney.

OFFICIALS of the West Lancashire Labour group are celebrating the 'historic achievement' of returning an almost 50/50 ratio of male and female borough councillors at the latest elections.

And Maureen Mills, Labour councillor for Halsall ward, said that the result is fitting given that this year marks the centenary of the first women winning the right to vote in the UK.

With female candidates winning seats in Burscough and North Meols, and retaining seats in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale, the Labour group's 33 positions on West Lancs Council are now held by 17 men and 16 women.

Meanwhile at county council level, exactly 50% of Labour councillors are women.

Deputy leader of West Lancs Council, Councillor Yvonne Gagen, said: "This is a fantastic result for all women across the borough of West Lancashire, as it brings a greater representative balance to the council.

"Each of our new councillors went through a rigorous selection process and were chosen by their local residents as outstanding candidates for their wards.

"They all went on to fight a determined campaign, just like the women who fought for our right to vote 100 years ago.

"The Labour Party is committed to gender equality in politics and we are immensely proud that West Lancashire is leading the way locally in achieving this."

Councillor David Westley, leader of the Conservative group on West Lancs Council, said: "The Conservative Party has nothing to learn from Labour in terms of equal opportunity. It selects local authority and parliamentary candidates for their ability, not gender.

"I think it is telling that the Conservatives have produced the first two female prime ministers in Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May."

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Paul White receives the cheque £5,000 from Santander Bank's Natalie Davis flanked by staff and volunteers from Ormskirk School.

Santander bankrolls mentoring project!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

SANTANDER bank has donated £5,000 to fund an innovative scheme at Ormskirk School which will see older students mentor young pupils to help them overcome possible obstacles to success in school.

An Inclusive Future (AIF), a non-profit Community Interest Company based in Ormskirk, has set up a peer mentoring project called Provoking Purposeful Enthusiastic Living.

Paul White, one of the directors of the company, says that the aim is to enable Year 7 pupils (11 and 12 year-olds) who would benefit from extra assistance, to be matched with Year 12 students (17 and 18-year-olds) who will provide clear and structured mentoring support to raise aspirations, build confidence and help overcome any barriers to learning and social development.

The £5,000 awarded to the company by Santander will be used to train the Year 12 students and pay for AIF to monitor the project.

Work has already started and youngsters have been paired off with training provided by Merseyside Youth Association.

Exciting

Paul says the Year 12 mentors have proved enthusiastic volunteers.

"They have come up with some great ideas which we hadn't even anticipated. It's quite an innovative project and they are really excited about it."

Though the project is initially planned to run for 12 months Paul hopes to extend it and introduce it to other schools.

He said: "Mentoring is a big thing at the moment. Movie stars, rock stars and business leaders are all accessing mentors so why might Year 7s not need a little bit of support in school?

"It's an exciting, innovative approach which we can hopefully roll out to the wider area."

Natalie Davis, director at Santander's branch in Moor Street, Ormskirk, said: "We are delighted to be able to provide 'An Inclusive Future' with a cheque for £5,000 from Santander's Discovery Grant Scheme which supports more than 700 organisations per year that improve people's knowledge and skills or which provide innovative solutions to overcome social challenges.

"An Inclusive Future is a much-deserving project and we are pleased they applied to us for a grant. We look forward to helping more projects like this within our local community."

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Diabetic's call to make 'life-changing' device available on NHS

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A DIABETIC from West Lancashire is appealing for the public to support a new policy to provide what she descirbed as 'life-changing' technology on the NHS for those who have to monitor their own blood glucose levels.

For more than 30 years Elisabeth Perry has had to prick her fingers several times daily to draw blood to check her glucose levels on a test strip and meter, a process which she says can be painful.

Then, the retired admin worker was given the opportunity to trial a special glucose-monitoring device consisting of a small sensor worn on the skin which continuously records blood sugar levels and relates them to a digital reader or mobile phone through an app.

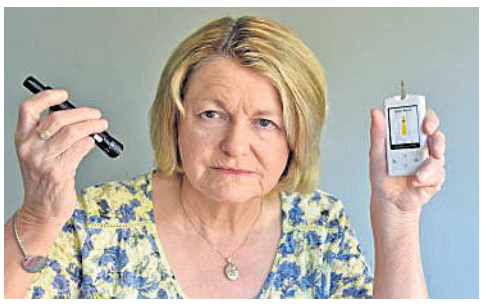
However, these devices are currently only available by prescription on the NHS subject to the approval of local health commissioners.

The West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has drafted a policy which would make them available in the borough for people who meet certain criteria and has launched a public consultation running until the end of June.

And Elisabeth, who was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes when she was 11 years old, is urging diabetics to take part in the consultation. The 60-year-old from Aughton said: "This would be life-changing for diabetics, particularly for those who regularly test their blood sugar."

Leading research charity, Diabetes UK, says that the new machines, which cost £35 per sensor and last two weeks, are 'cost-neutral' for those who test their own blood eight times per day due to the cost of the equipment they currently use.

But they claim there would be much greater savings in the long term as the device, known as 'Flash', helps people to test more frequently, and gives them much more information. This, in turn, they say supports improved control of the condition which can then reduce the risk of serious diabetes-related complications, such as amputation, blindness and stroke.



Elizabeth Perry and her blood glucose monitoring equipment.

The consultation can be viewed on NHS West Lancashire CCG's website, along with two other draft policies; the supply and funding of insulin pumps for patients with diabetes; and the management of back pain with spinal injections.

Opportunities to discuss these policies face-to-face can also be arranged by emailing mlcsu.haveyoursay@nhs.net or calling 01772 214244.

Comments on the policies must be submitted by no later than Friday, June 29.

Greg Mitten, chief officer of West Lancs CVS and lay member for patient and public involvement at NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "The policies which we are now consulting on may have an impact on many of our residents, it is therefore vitally important that our population have their say on what we are proposing."

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Police launch new initiative to safeguard people living with dementia

LANCASHIRE Constabulary chose Dementia Action Week (May 21-27) to launch a new initiative designed to help safeguard people living with the condition.

The force has teamed up with the Alzheimer's Society and other emergency services to launch the Herbert Protocol in the county, a scheme designed to assist the search process when vulnerable people go missing.

The protocol involves families pre-preparing information on loved ones, including descriptions and places they are known to visit, so that should they go missing, police have all the essential information they need to hand to help with their investigation.

The scheme, already up and running in other parts of the country, will not only assist officers but also reduce the stress on family and friends in the event of a missing person's inquiry.

Inspector Christina Shorrock from Lancashire Police said: "With an ageing population, dementia is something that will inevitably affect us all, either personally, professionally or both.

"As such, I'm very pleased that we are working in partnership with Alzheimer's Society, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services and North West Ambulance Service, to promote this programme which aims to safeguard some of the most vulnerable members of our community and reduce stress on families in the event of a loved one with dementia going missing.

Priority

"It's just one of a range of different initiatives being undertaken by the constabulary as part of our commitment to being a Dementia Friendly organisation."

Alison Wakefield, Dementia Friendly communities officer with the Alzheimer's Society in the North West, said: "We are delighted that Lancashire Constabulary are introducing the Herbert Protocol for the 16,000-plus people living with dementia in Lancashire.

"People with dementia are particularly vulnerable if they go missing from a care home or other familiar setting. They may be trying to find their way back to their home or somewhere else from their past life that they have happy memories of, but can quickly become confused and completely lost."

Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, added: "I'm delighted to see Lancashire Constabulary build on the work that they have already done to support those with dementia. Supporting vulnerable people is a key priority and the Herbert Protocol is a clear example of this, highlighting a commitment to prevent vulnerable people from becoming victims of crime."

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR READERS THINK?
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Rotary club donates 60 trees for borough cemetery memorial gardens project

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ORMSKIRK Rotary Club has donated 60 trees for gardens of remembrance to be created at the new West Lancs Cemetery and Crematorium.

As part of a nationwide campaign, Rotary clubs were called upon to plant a tree for each of their members.

The Ormskirk group decided to approach the cemetery in Pippin Street, Burscough to see if they would be interested in a joint project.

And the Westerleigh group, a leading developer and operator of crematoria and cemeteries in the UK which operates the site, were only too pleased to accept.

Currently about 40 acres of land at the crematorium, which was opened in 2016, are undeveloped but manager, Steve Glen, says they will become part of the planned memorial gardens.

Roger Forster, president of Ormskirk Rotary Club, said: "At the beginning of the year the President of Rotary International challenged every Rotary club to plant one tree for each member. The goal was obvious - trees are good for us. They absorb carbon and release oxygen, they support biodiversity and they improve soil, our climate and our moods. We need more of them.

"Set in the heart of the countryside on the edge of Burscough, this new cemetery and crematorium provides a natural place of peace and seclusion ensuring that the bereaved have the space and surroundings in which to grieve and to organise the funeral they want."

Roger Forster, Alan Jose and Steve Glen at the site of the planned memorial gardens.

Alan Jose, group ambassador for Westerleigh, said: "I would just like to say that West Lancashire Crematorium and the Westerleigh group are delighted to be the recipients of these trees donated by the Rotary Club of Ormskirk which will in time enhance the landscape of the crematorium grounds. And as a Rotarian of long-standing I am proud to be associated with this initiative."

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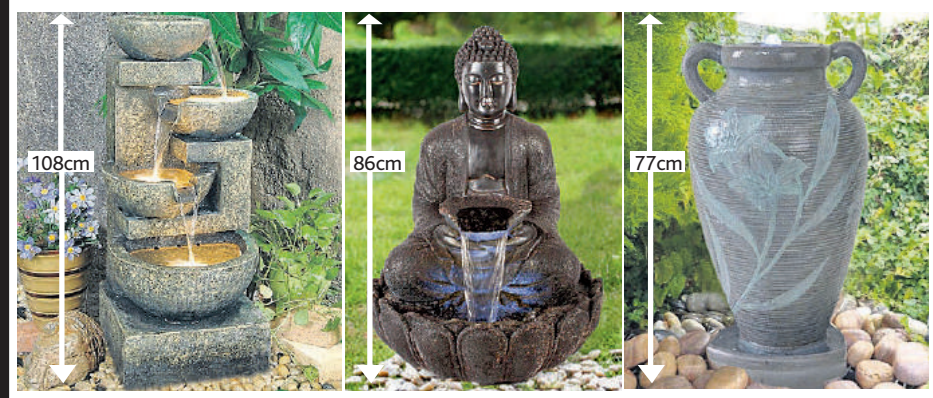

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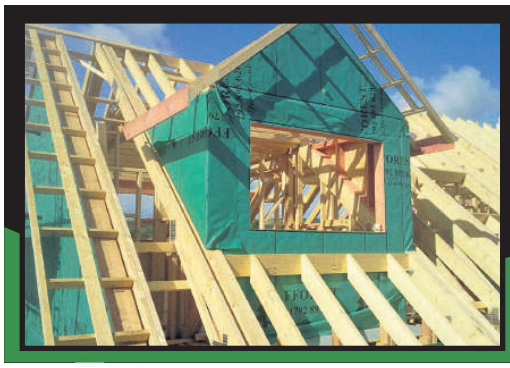

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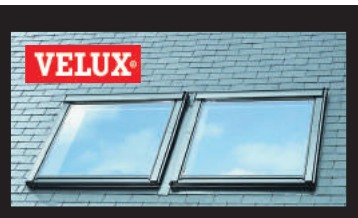

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
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All arguments must be balanced in council's revision of Local Plan

THE battle of Culloden, the last pitched battle on British soil, took place 272 miles from Ormskirk and 272 years ago.

In May this year, planning permission was granted to build 16 houses within the boundary of the Culloden Conservation Area on land the local communities have always regarded justifiably as an historic war grave.

The link to West Lancashire and the proposed revision of the Local Plan by the borough council is contained in a statement from the National Trust for Scotland which in part reads 'the situation at Culloden perfectly illustrates why the current planning system has to be reformed and that the current balance between the rights of communities, the significance of national heritage and the profits of developers is out of kilter.'

In revising the Local Plan, the borough council is quite rightly attempting to make sure a supply of 'deliverable' sites for development over the coming years is maintained.

The importance of this in the context of housing, especially affordable housing, is self-evident.

However, a backward glance historically may be worthwhile.

Two examples, one very recent, the other long ago.

The inclusion by the borough council of potential housing development land at Parrs Lane, Aughton in the Local Plan despite the predictable objections from the local community, resulted in costly appeals which finally and fortunately went against the developers.

The second example stems from a previous housing shortage. On this occasion the solution was found in the enforced wanton destruction of communities and the building of tower blocks, many now demolished but one still stands in the Royal Borough of Kensington, a silent, blackened testimony to alleged greed and incompetence.

The common thread in these disparate examples is the lack of weight given to the community viewpoint.

Not all counter arguments are based on the 'not in my back yard' philosophy, many are genuine, justifiable and predictable. They deserve greater consideration by both planners and politicians.

By the same token, not all developers should be cast as profiteers; they provide us with a basic human need, somewhere to live and work.

In revising the Local Plan, it's hoped the borough council will re-calibrate the balance.

P. B., by email, details supplied

CCG goes to great lengths to involve patients and public

FOLLOWING on from the article headed 'MP raises issues over transparency in contracting out of health services' (Champion, May 23) NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) would like to help clarify some of the points made within the article.

As a clinically-led statutory NHS body responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services in West Lancashire, the CCG goes to great lengths to involve patients and the public in its work.

Examples of this openness include our Governing Body and Primary Care Commissioning Committee meetings, which are held in public and heavily promoted to encourage members of the public to attend.

In addition, news, policies and plans are published on the CCG's website and we proactively encourage members of the public to get in touch to have their say, by joining our My View group. My View is open to anyone living or working in West Lancashire and details on how to join are available on the My View page of the CCG's website.

From a commissioning perspective, we are required by law to ensure that all commissioning decisions are taken in compliance with both The Public Regulations 2015 and Procurement, Patient Choice and Competition Regulations 2013. Each commissioning decision is taken on its own merit and careful consideration is given to all the contractual options.

With regards to the Walk in Centre opening hours, Ormskirk Walk in Centre is open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week, these times remain consistent with the opening times as offered previously by Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

The opening hours of the Walk in Centre at the Skelmersdale Concourse were extended earlier this year and it is now also open from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

Obligation

In addition, Virgin Care is commissioned to provide a 24/7 unplanned care service, ensuring that there is always access to the right clinician, in the right place either at a Walk in Centre or via the Out of Hours GP Service.

Finally, all contracting authorities have an obligation to maintain confidentiality regarding specific and commercial details included in a contract.

All information that is available and appropriate to be shared, is made available and the CCG is fully compliant with the transparency agenda for public sector.

It is imperative that information obtained during a procurement procedure is shared appropriately to maintain confidentiality and avoid jeopardising a procedure.

This is relevant for all bidders involved in any competitive process.

Mike Maguire, chief officer,
NHS West Lancashire CCG

PICTURE of the week

Members of the Ascroft family outside their corn merchants and grocery shop in Mere Brow village which is set to close its doors after 180 years. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume; or one may be provided for them.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

No excuse for leaving dogs in hot cars

HERE we are again with the weather warming up and still there are people ignorant enough to leave their dogs in cars.

Leaving a window open slightly just isn't enough.

Surely, we all know by now that a dog can die within a very short time when overheated, and how hot it gets inside a vehicle in a very short time.

There should never be an excuse to leave a dog in a car during the summer months. This should be made a criminal offence.

Diane Smith, dog owner, dog lover

Lee's BAFTA success shows the true value of our local libraries

I WAS delighted to read in the last edition of the Champion that BAFTA had recognised the excellence of former local lad Lee McNicholas for his work on programmes such as X Factor and Britain's Got Talent.

How nice it was to see that Lee fully recognises and greatly appreciates the role that his inspirational drama teacher Mrs Little played in his success.

And at a time when we have seen so many of the county's libraries closed as a result of this government's crippling programme of 'austerity', it was particularly interesting to read that the many hours that Lee had spent studying in his local library was pivotal in him fulfilling his ambitions.

LCC fundholders please take note!

David Ashley, by email

New recruits always welcome to join dedicated volunteers

IN the run-up to National Volunteering Week (June 1 to 7), Cats Protection would like to extend our thanks to the many thousands of volunteers throughout the country who offer their time and expertise to help cats and kittens across the UK.

In 2017 our 10,200-strong volunteer network contributed an incredible 5.5 million hours, each volunteer gifting a wealth of expertise and immeasurable passion to the charity.

Their dedication enabled Cats Protection to help around 200,000 cats and kittens nationwide.

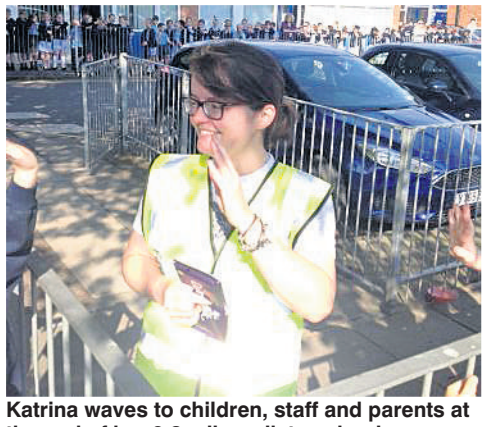
Cats Protection is always on the lookout for new volunteers to join the UK's biggest cat community.

Though a large part of our work is helping cats, through fostering and re-homing, our volunteers have the opportunity to become involved with a range of interesting activities, such as organising fundraising events, helping with publicity, or managing funds and resources to benefit the greatest amount of cats.

Volunteering can offer the chance to develop skills such as time management, interpersonal skills and teamwork, making CVs much more attractive and, of course, helping cats!

Anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer can go to our website www.cats.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering to find out more.

**Julie Meredith
Cats Protection Head of Volunteering Development**



Katrina waves to children, staff and parents at the end of her 9.8 mile walk to school.

Teacher leads by example to launch 'Walk to School' week project

... and raises £1,500 for children's hospital unit

A PRIMARY school teacher led by example when her school launched a health initiative for children by walking almost 10 miles to work.

Katrina Williams, a teacher at St Anne's Catholic Primary in Ormskirk, abandoned her car for the day and made the 9.8 mile journey from her home in Formby on foot.

As the school in Aughton Street launched its 'Walk to School Week' project - aimed at promoting healthy living for children and consideration of the environment - Katrina decided to forego her drive to work, along with her usual trip to a coffee shop with a colleague!

Setting off at about 5.30am, she arrived at school in plenty of time to be greeted by staff, parents and pupils who had lined the driveway, clapping and cheering her as she took the final steps of her journey.

The Year 2 teacher, who was encouraged and supported on the way by friends, was said to be in good spirits at the end.

And her effort helped to raise a fabulous £1,500 for the oncology unit at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, smashing her original target of £150!

Vet's barbecue alert after pet dog swallows kebab skewer!

AS warmer weather encourages families out into the garden for barbecues a local vet is warning pet owners of the potential risks, after he had to operate on a dog which swallowed a kebab whole, including the skewer!.

Bertie, a nine-year-old wirehaired fox terrier was initially taken to a branch of Rufford Vets when he started making a gurgling noise. But apart from a mild temperature, the dog was still eating and passing faeces fine so he was prescribed medication and sent home where he seemed to be getting better until a lump was discovered on his side.

After admitting the dog for X-rays, vet Iain Fraser then conducted an exploratory laparotomy - a surgical procedure opening the abdomen to examine the internal organs - and located an intact 10cm wooden kebab skewer in the stomach!

The family had had a barbecue a few days before and Bertie must have picked up the skewer and meat and ingested it then.

The vet said: "Bertie was very lucky but we implore everyone to take care when enjoying this weather. BBQs can cause various issues for our pets and accidents can happen."

Fluffy new arrivals join the attractions at Martin Mere

STAFF at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre have welcomed a group of fluffy new arrivals following the hatching of eight greater flamingo chicks.

Manager of the Burscough centre, Nick Brooks, said: "It is always great to see flamingo chicks at the centre. They are very popular with our visitors.

"We do a flamingo experience every day at 1.30pm where we put up a scope and show visitors eggs, skulls, feathers and pictures - it's a great talk and an opportunity to have the chicks pointed out.

"Our adult flamingos are actually as old as Martin Mere as they came from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's Slimbridge reserve in Gloucestershire 40 years ago! The fact that they still continue to breed is credit to our team of aviculturists and the care they show the birds."

The greater flamingos is one of six species of flamingos found in the world and the least vibrant-coloured, being a pale salmon pink.

Flamingos are very social birds which need to be kept together in a large group in order for them to be happy.

At Martin Mere they currently have 90 greater flamingos who choose the same partners every year.

A single egg is laid by each pair and both the male and female take it in turns to incubate. Incubation takes approximately 30 days and all chicks are parent-reared as these social youngsters benefit from being with their mum and dad, as well as with each other.

In addition, adult flamingos produce a special crop milk to feed their babies on (pigeons are the only other bird to do this).

The fluffy chicks grow very quickly - up to two centimetres a day - and they are fully-fledged by the age of three months. They are usually grey or white in colouring and it takes approximately two to three years to obtain full pink plumage.

The attentive parents watch over one of the latest fluffy arrivals at Martin Mere

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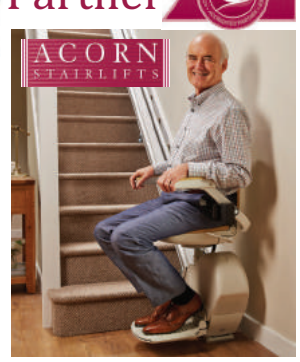

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Council adopts scheme to prevent taxis discriminating against disabled passengers

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs Council is among a minority of local authorities nationwide that have taken steps to protect disabled taxi passengers from being overcharged, according to research by a disability activist.

The council is one of only a third of authorities across the region to have created so-called Section 167 lists, which aims to hold taxi drivers to account if they discriminate against disabled passengers.

A change in the Equality Act enacted in April last year means that taxi drivers could face fines of up to £1,000 if they refuse to transport wheelchair users or attempt to charge them extra.

However the rules only apply to vehicles on the Section 167 lists which councils need to create and many haven't done so despite a Government-recommended deadline of October 2017.

In West Lancashire 100% of registered taxi drivers have been included on the list.

The research was carried out by Doug Paulley, a wheelchair user and disability rights campaigner.

However, the local authority was found to be in the majority when it came to not providing disability awareness training for taxi drivers to enable them to know how to safely work with disabled people.

A spokeperson for West Lancs Council stated: "The council considers it important that people with disabilities have access to all forms of public transportation and this is supported through the adoption of this legislation, which is detailed in its Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Statement of Licensing Policy.

West Lancs Council has long required all licensed Hackney Carriages to be wheelchair accessible now it's seeking to protect disabled taxi passengers from being overcharged.

"The council has long required that all licensed Hackney Carriages must be wheelchair accessible and the adoption of this new law gives these responsibilities statutory effect.

"The council is committed to helping the local taxi trade to continually improve its service and is currently developing its safeguarding training so that it forms part of the process for first time and renewed licence applications. It will consider whether there should be a disability awareness element in this training."

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Hospitals and MPs back campaign to combat loneliness

by **Danielle Thompson**

Terry Durrance (2nd from right) and friends launch the booklet campaign to 'banish loneliness'

A PROJECT to tackle loneliness in the community has been launched at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals.

West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper and Southport MP, Damien Moore are backing the initiative, which was set up by Sefton borough councillor, Terry Durrance in partnership with the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

All patients being discharged from the hospitals will be given a booklet containing contact details of a number of organisations who can help lonely people, including luncheon clubs, activity centres, the U3A, Esther Rantzen's SilverLine and charities including Contact the Elderly and Independent Age.

The initiative was launched at the hopsitals by the two MPs and Cllr. Durrance alongside representatives from many of the organisations involved.

Cllr Durrance said: "Many years ago, as a member of Southport Rotary, I delivered Christmas food parcels and one lonely, bereaved lady's eyes lit up at the company.

"She told me that she only ever spoke to the postman. Since then I have been doing whatever I can to support those who set out to alleviate loneliness wherever I can.

"There are a great number of organisations out there who can help lonely people but the difficulty is actually making contact with those who can best benefit from their services.

"To persuade those who are most vulnerable to make contact with the organisation will improve the quality of their lives.

"There is a very real culture of loneliness and once people accept that they are destined to go down that path it is difficult for them to escape.

"For quite some time I have been making a nuisance of myself by hammering away about the plight of lonely people in our society. This is a huge step forward and I have to thank Matron Michelle Kitson for her enthusiasm in setting up this project so that the consideration of loneliness features as part of the discharge procedure for all patients discharged.

"I would also thank Justine Shenton of Sefton Pensioners Advocacy and Anne Oliver of Lancashire Age UK for helping to get this project up and running and the support and funding from the Southport Rotary Club and the organisations who have all contributed to the booklet.

"Loneliness is something that we should all be determined to do something about. Lets make the launch of this project the turning point."

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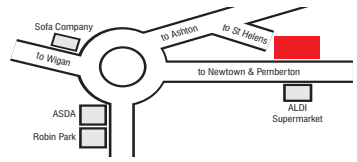

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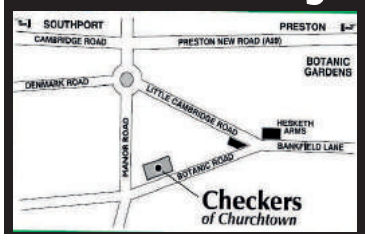

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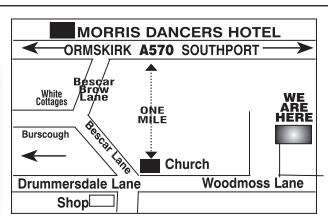

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Don't make waste when the sun shines!

County council urges public to remember to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' when enjoying the good weather

ENJOY the sunshine but don't forget to reduce, reuse and recycle is the message from Lancashire County Council.

Good weather can mean extra waste being produced as people depart from routine and grab food on the go while enjoying the sun.

But it also means there are plenty of opportunities to be kinder to the environment by recycling everything possible and avoiding generating unnecessary waste while out and about or hosting family and friends.

The authority has issued the following tips:

• Avoid using single-use plastic cutlery and tableware for parties, picnics and BBQs. People are being advised to use what they have already got, or consider investing in reusable plastic tableware if they are concerned about breakages.

• Residents are being asked to reduce food waste by only buying and cooking what they need. For example, if holding a BBQ, buy equal numbers of burgers and buns. Individuals could reduce waste even more by not buying meat packed in plastic trays.

• Take care during the cooking process to make sure none is wasted. Pre-cooking items before placing them on the BBQ for a final smoky flavour is safer and may lead to less wasted food due to items ending up burned on the outside and frozen in the middle.

County Councillor Charlie Edwards

• People who are camping or picnicking, are being asked to take several rubbish sacks so they can separate recyclables and put them in the right bins when they get back home. This is better than mixing everything together and separating later as recyclable items have less value if contaminated with food.

• Individuals are being asked to keep up their usual recycling habits. Give recyclables a quick rinse out, remove labels and remove lids from metal and plastic items – they can be recycled too but are often made from different types of metal/plastic and can't be recycled together.

• Pizza boxes can be recycled, even if they are a bit greasy, but all visible traces of food must be removed first. Please scrape any melted cheese, tomato and toppings completely off before placing in the recycle bin.

County Councillor Charlie Edwards, Lancashire's lead member for health and adult services, said: "We've become a lot better at recycling in recent years, but there's still lots of room for improvement and we could increase Lancashire's recycling rate by 16% if everyone always puts the right thing in the right bin.

"Please think about what you throw away and what you buy, as with a little bit of planning we can all recycle more and reduce the amount of waste we produce – it all adds up and makes a real difference."

More recycling tips can be found on Lancashire County Council's website at www.lancashire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/recycle-for-lancashire.

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New schools pack highlights food allergies threat

LANCASHIRE County Council has developed a new resource for schools to educate young people about how serious food allergies can be; what they can do to protect people with serious allergies; and how to help if someone has a bad reaction.

The initiative follows concerns that a lack of understanding among their peers can lead to bullying and young people with food allergies taking risks by eating things they know they shouldn't to avoid revealing their allergy.

The lesson pack includes a film called *A Day in the Life of Chloe*, featuring a real teenage girl who has a life-threatening airborne strawberry allergy.

Chloe recounts some of her experiences, including online bullying, and tells how she and other people with allergies would like to be treated.

The Burnley College student who was diagnosed with the allergy when she was two years old, produced a play performed last year with her two sisters and a friend which formed the basis for the film.

The initiative is being backed by the national Anaphylaxis Campaign and Gemma and Adam Lee from Oswaldtwistle, whose 15-year-old daughter Megan died in 2017 from acute asthma due to a nut allergy.

Increase

A launch event was held earlier this month to promote the pack to schools where speakers include the Lees and Lynne Regent, chief executive of the Anaphylaxis Campaign, Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Lancashire County Council's director of public health and wellbeing, and Rachel Wilcock, food safety officer for the county council's Trading Standards.

Food allergy is a growing public health issue with a dramatic increase in allergic diseases in recent years and one in three of the UK population living with an allergy of some form.

County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Every school is likely to have at least one pupil who is severely food-allergic, and many schools will have more than one student who lives with a serious allergy.

"We've developed these resources to increase awareness of food allergy as a serious issue and help educate young people and adults about the potentially life-threatening nature of the disease.

"It's important that people with allergies don't feel embarrassed by their allergy and that students know how to make it as safe as possible for those with allergies and how to help them if they have a reaction."

Pictured at the launch of the lesson pack are Adam Lee, Sakthi Karunanithi, County Councillors Shaun Turner and Albert Atkinson, and Gemma Lee.

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Hip-hop superstar, entrepreneur and tech visionary will.i.am has launched a new eyewear collection, available exclusively at Specsavers.

Building on his passion for striking eyewear, first inspired by the hip-hop icons of his youth – Run DMC and Flavor Flav – the 17-piece collection references classic and iconic styles with an innovative and futuristic twist.

will.i.am, a multifaceted entertainer and innovator, best known as part of Black Eyed Peas, said: 'What makes my collection and designs unique are the subtleties and attention to detail that gives them the extra 'oomph', while remaining entirely wearable.

'Glasses are the best way to make your outfit look fresh, put together, yet unique. If I am going to take the time to make sure my shoes, coat and hat look good together, I'm always going to complete the outfit with a great pair of glasses. I want my line to inspire everyone to accessorise with glasses in a dope way.'

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Link between tobacco and killer disease highlighted

TO mark World No Tobacco Day on Thursday (May 31) tobacco users in Lancashire are being urged to understand the link between the use of the substance and cardiovascular disease.

According to the World Health Organisation, cardiovascular disease kills more people than any other cause of death worldwide, and tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure contribute to approximately 12 percent of all heart disease deaths.

Cardiovascular disease is a general term for conditions affecting the heart or blood vessels. It is one of the main causes of death and disability in the UK, and is caused by a range of factors that include smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and inactivity.

Tobacco use is the second leading cause of cardiovascular disease, after high blood pressure. The global tobacco epidemic kills more than seven million people each year, of which close to 900,000 are non-smokers dying from breathing second-hand smoke.

Gareth Beck from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Quit Squad said: "Tobacco use is a threat to people regardless of background and socio-economic status. Every year, more than seven million people die from it, a figure that is expected to grow to over eight million by 2030.

"World No Tobacco Day is a good way to raise awareness of the health risks associated with smoking and chewing tobacco."

People can access the Quit Squad service in their local community by visiting a drop-in clinic (for which no appointments are required) or by attending a one-to-one session.

The Quit Squad also offers sessions in the community and workplace. For further details, telephone 0800 3286297, visit www.quitsquad.nhs.uk, or follow the Quit Squad on Twitter @LancashireCare #QuitSquad.

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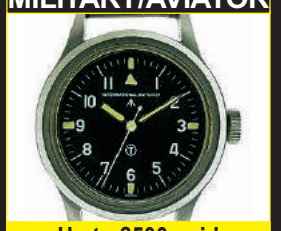

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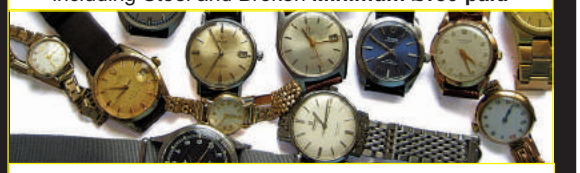

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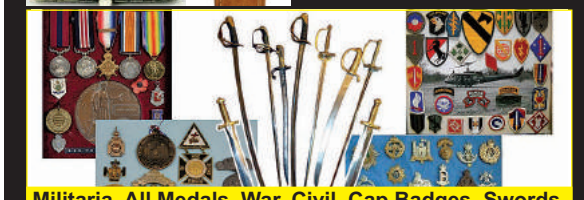

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The countdown is on to Ormskirk MotorFest 2018

Early call for marshals to help with smooth running of ever-popular August bank holiday crowd-puller

ORGANISERS of the ever-popular Ormskirk MotorFest are urging motoring enthusiasts to make sure they are in pole position to enjoy one of the biggest free family events in the North West of England.

And they are appealing for marshals to join the fun and help the event go smoothly. You can sign up for this important role at www.ormskirkmotorfest.com.

The Ormskirk MotorFest has been a hugely popular occasion since it began in 2011, attracting around 30,000 people in 2016 and 2017.

This year's event, scheduled for Sunday, August 26 and organised once again by Aintree Circuit Club, supported by West Lancashire Borough Council, is set to be another fantastic day out for all the family.

Owners of classic, vintage and competition cars and motorcycles can visit the event website www.ormskirkmotorfest.com for information on how to enter.

John Hodson, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "The Ormskirk MotorFest is a fantastic day out for all the family so make sure you don't miss this marvellous event. Some fabulous cars will once again be on display in the town centre and Coronation Park."

And Mike Ashcroft, Aintree Circuit Club chairman, added: "Put the date in your diary now for the 2018 Ormskirk MotorFest as it will be a fantastic event.

"If you want to be a marshal or if you own a classic, vintage or competition car or motorcycle and want to have it on display at the Motorfest please visit our website www.ormskirkmotorfest.com."

The Ormskirk MotorFest has drawn crowds of 30,000 to the town centre over the last two years.

The Concours de Elegance competition will once again be a feature at this year's MotorFest.

This will see some specially-presented vehicles line up for expert judges to cast their eye over them, including a 'Class of 58' for vehicles from that year with a trophy for the winner.

Owners can enter their vehicles in the Concours on the MotorFest website. Halsall-based Carequick Ltd. Air Conditioning, which specialises in building services, air conditioning and mechanical maintenance, are sponsoring the Concours de Elegance for the fourth successive year.

This attraction will complement the superb town-centre displays which will feature a fantastic variety of classic and modern cars and motorbikes. Many vehicles will join in parade laps around the town centre to entertain the crowds.

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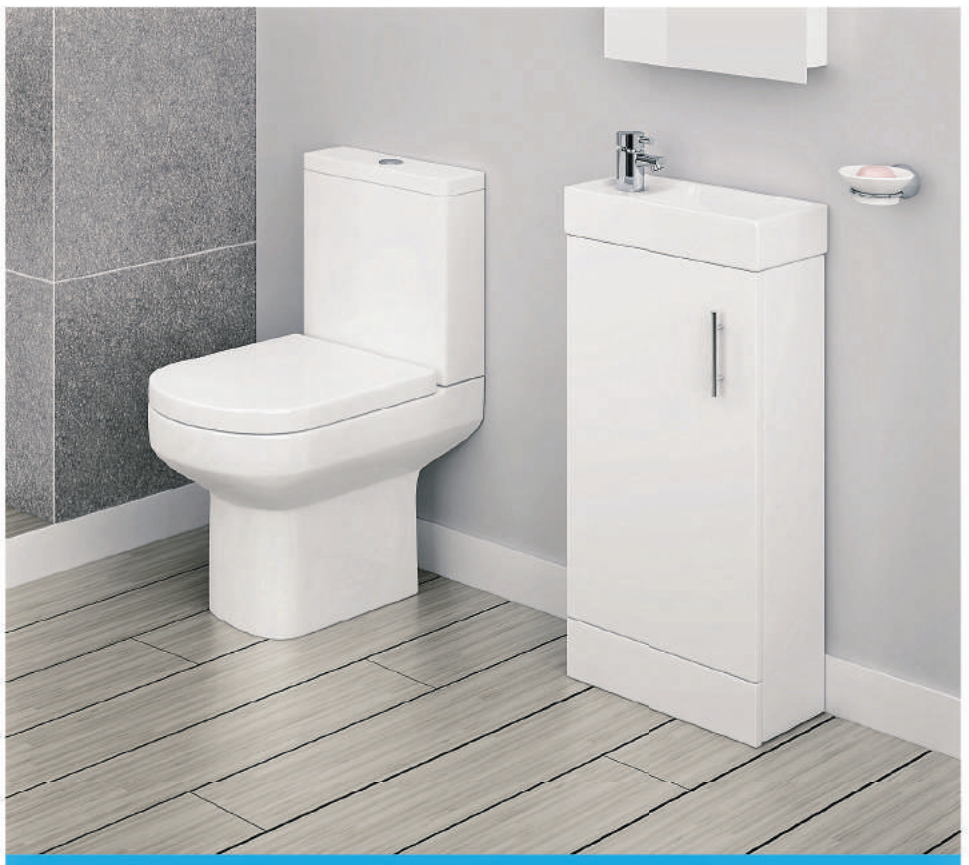

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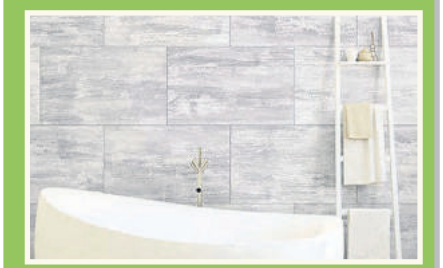

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Win tickets to see Taylor Swift in concert

Taylor Swift is taking her *Reputation* tour to the Etihad Stadium in Manchester next week.

PRINCESS of pop Taylor Swift's Reputation Tour is set to arrive in Manchester next week and the Champion has eight pairs of tickets to giveaway for her concert at the Etihad Stadium on Saturday, June 9.

Taylor Swift's critically acclaimed sixth studio album, *Reputation*, topped iTunes album charts in 111 countries and debuted at No. 1 on the Official UK Albums Chart.

Selling more than 1.29 million copies in the US on its week of release, it was one of the highest selling albums there in 2017.

Taylor is the only artist in history to have four albums selling more than one million copies in their first week of release in the US - (2010's *Speak Now*, 2012's *RED*, 2014's *1989* and 2017's *Reputation*).

Taylor Swift's chart-topping first single, *Look What You Made Me Do*, from her sixth album, *Reputation*, broke multiple records within hours of its release.

With over 10 million streams, it is the most-streamed song in a one-day period ever, the lyric video for Look What You Made Me Do broke the standing record with over 19 million views, while the music video shattered the original most viewed video (28 million) record with 43.2 million views in only 24 hours.

Taylor is a ten-time Grammy winner, a singer, songwriter, musician and producer.

She is the youngest person in history to win the music industry's highest honour, The Grammy Award for Album of the Year and she is the first female solo artist to win this prestigious award twice. Rolling Stone listed Taylor as one of the 100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time.

Time magazine has named her one of the 100 Most Influential People in the world and one of only eight candidates for their most prestigious honour, 2014 Person of the Year.

Camila Cabello, known for the song Havana, will be the opening act for the show.

To be in with a chance of winning the competition, answer the following question.

● **What is the name of Taylor Swift's fifth studio album, which was released in October, 2014?.**

Answers to: Taylor Swift competition, Champion Newspapers, Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR9 OQA. The closing date for the competition is noon on Tuesday, June 5. The usual Champion competition rules apply.

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West Lancs Slimming World consultants, Tina Whewell, Sue Allt, Sarah Salka and Kathy Burslem with some of the bags of clothes collected for Cancer Research UK

Slimmers aim to bag a boost for cancer charity

A BIG-hearted group of slimmers are swapping losing pounds for raising them in aid of a good cause.

Members of the West Lancashire Slimming World groups have collected more than 80 bags of clothes that they have successfully 'slimmed out of' to raise money for Cancer Research UK as part of national fundraising campaign, the Big Slimming World Clothes Throw.

Consultants who run the Ormskirk and Burscough groups encouraged members, their friends and families to collect the clothes, shoes and accessories they no longer need to generate stock for Cancer Research UK.

Senior consultant, Tina Whewell, said: "This year's Big Slimming World Clothes Throw event has been a fantastic success and I was overwhelmed by the amount of bags our members managed to collect for Cancer Research UK – they really are amazing!

"It was a fantastic atmosphere in the group and it was so rewarding to raise such a phenomenal amount of stock for such an incredible cause.

"And it's not just members of the group who have cleared out their wardrobes – we've had great support from the whole community. I'm still buzzing from all the donations we've had!

"Because our members are so sure they'll never need their 'big' clothes again, when we told them about the Big Slimming World Clothes Throw they couldn't wait to bag them up and donate them to charity.

"But there is also a more serious side to our support for Cancer Research UK. One in two people are diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime, and being overweight can increase the chance of developing the disease.

"It's vital we spread the message that healthy eating, being physically active and losing weight by adopting healthy habits all help reduce the risk of developing cancer."

The clothes collected by Slimming World will be donated to Cancer Research UK shops across the country, with each bag raising up to £25 for the charity.

Last year slimmers collected close to £3.3m worth of stock for Cancer Research UK shops around the country and they're hoping to beat that total this year. All profits go to support the charity's life-saving work to help beat cancer sooner.

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DAY EXCURSIONS 2018

JUNE		ADULT	CHILD
Fri 1st June	Bourton on the Water & the Cotswold	£21.00	£15.40
Sat 9th June	RHS Flower Show at Chatsworth House (Entry Inc)	£49.50	£42.00
JULY			
Mon 23rd July	Skipton on Market Day with Canal Cruise (Cruise Inc)	£25.00	£21.00
Wed 25th July	Majestic Snowdonia, Llanberis & Caernarfon	£19.50	£14.20
Fri 27th July	Trafford Centre Shopping Complex	£14.00	£10.00
Tues 31st July	Ambleside & Grasmere	£16.90	£12.20
AUGUST			
Wed 1st August	Bury's World Famous Market	£14.00	£10.00
Thurs 2nd August	Portmerion Village (Entry Inc)	£31.90	£21.75
Fri 3rd August	Knowsley Safari Park (Entry Inc)	£24.00	£19.00
Mon 6th August	Chester City or Zoo (Coach Only)	£14.40	£10.40
Tues 7th August	Buxton & Peak Railway (Train journey Inc)	£25.90	£21.00
Wed 8th August	Blackpool	£14.40	£10.40
Fri 10th August	York & York Minster (Coach Only)	£18.75	£13.50
Tues 14th August	China's First Emperor & Terracota Warriors (Entry Inc)	£28.00	£17.00
Wed 15th August	Chatsworth House & Gardens (Entry Inc)	£31.00	£23.00
Fri 17th August	Morcambe & Kendal	£15.50	£11.20
Mon 20th August	Ffestiniog Railway & Portmadog (Train Ride Inc.)	£31.75	£24.00
Mon 22nd August	Lowry Shopping Comlex & Salford Quays	£14.00	£10.00
Thurs 23rd August	Muncaster Castle, Hawk & Owl Centre (Entry Inc)	£30.95	£27.95
Fri 24th August	Boundary Mill Store at Colne	£14.40	£10.40
Mon 27th August	Llandudno	£17.95	£12.95
Wed 29th August	Scarborough & The East Yorkshire Coast	£20.75	£14.90
Fri 31st August	Cadbury's World (Entry Inc)	£32.50	£26.75

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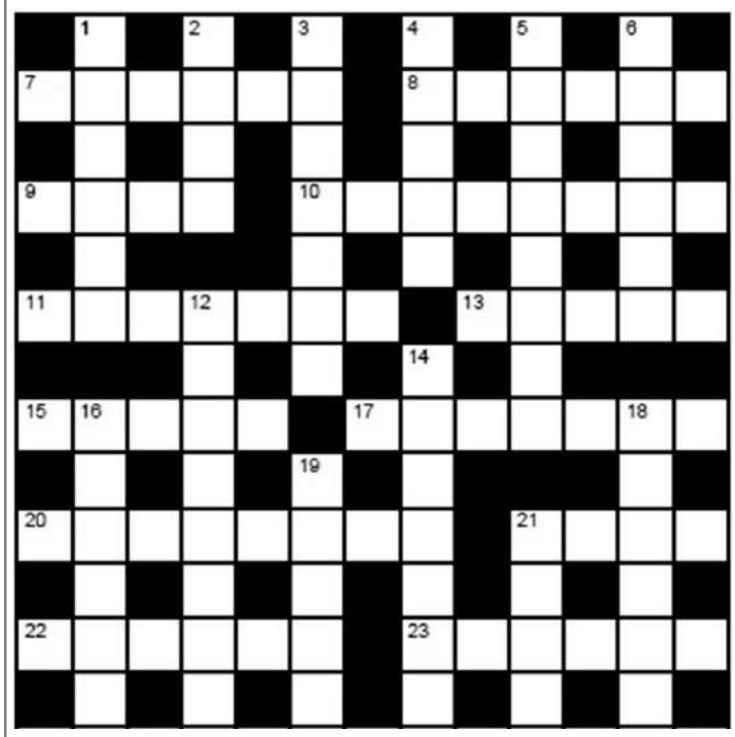

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Module. 8. Flashy. 9. Dado. 10. Shepherd. 11. Eclipse. 13. Dowdy. 15. Erupt. 16. Peevish. 18. Bona fide. 19. Code. 21. Jaguar. 22. Thieve

Down: 1. Soya. 2. Bubonic plague. 3. Persist. 4. After. 5. Fashion victim. 6. Charades. 12. Corporal. 14. Memento. 17. Libra. 20. Diva.

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ACROSS

7. Small monastery or nunnery (6)
8. Mystical, supernatural or magical powers, practices or phenomena (6)
9. Hot molten or semi-fluid rock erupted from a volcano (4)
10. In a restaurant food ordered as separate items rather than a set meal (1, 2, 5)
11. Relating to earthquakes (7)
13. Heavy blackish or dark brown timber from a tree of tropical or warm-temperate regions (5)
15. Basic unit of currency in a number of countries including Bahrain, Iraq and Serbia (5)
17. Small, exclusive group with shared interests or tastes (7)
20. Absolute ruler (8)
21. Short, sleeveless cloak (4)
22. Deep purplish-red colour (6)
23. Having a strong dislike of or opposition to something (6)

DOWN

1. Elaborately or highly decorated (6)
2. Prolonged or deep unconsciousness (4)
3. Monumental structure with a square or triangular base and sloping sides (7)
4. Comprising the whole number or amount (5)
5. Difficult or hurried clamber up or over something (8)
6. Family of proteins found in grains like wheat, rye and barley (6)
12. They are served before a main meal (8)
14. Derogatory term for a submissive person who allows others to dominate them (7)
16. Tapering piece of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water (6)
18. Force (an unwelcome decision or ruling) on someone (6)
19. Announce, declare (5)
21. Group of people who man and operate a ship or aircraft (4)

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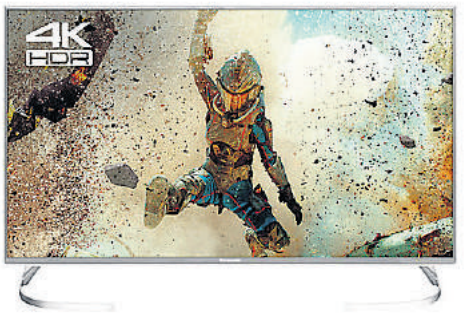

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Town Green hot shots book county games final spot

TALENTED girl footballers from Aughton Town Green Primary School booked their place at the SPAR Lancashire School Games with a comprehensive triumph in the West Lancashire qualifying competition - winning all eight games without conceding a goal!

The Town Green girls defeated 13 other schools and will now represent the borough at the county finals at Blackpool's Stanley Park on Tuesday, July 3 against teams from 14 other Lancashire districts.

More than 3,500 children from schools across the county will compete in 16 sports, including gymnastics, football, athletics, mixed cricket and touch rugby, plus new additions to the games line-up for 2018, quick sticks and quad kids.

The SPAR Lancashire School Games is the biggest school games programme of its kind and is implemented by the county's school games organisers.

This will mark the 12th year the county's school games programme has been sponsored by James Hall & Company Ltd, the SPAR distributors for the north of England.

● Right: On the ball...the Aughton Town Green Primary girls football team who will have qualified for the Lancashire School Games finals.

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The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
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Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY

AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Sarah: 07792 146342

FRIDAY

ORMSKIRK
New Pavilion
Ormskirk Cricket Club
Altys Lane
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close (Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton Street, Ormskirk
10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
Saturday 9am & 11am
Gill: 07921 222405

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It's sad how 'Age of The Train' went off the rails...

I MAKE no apologies for sticking with the railways for a second week - though coming at the subject on a rather different line.

Because after watching two episodes of the excellent Channel 5 production, *Inter City 125 - the Train that saved the Railway*, it brought home to me another couple of points that to my mind shows how railways have declined over the past few years.

Mind you, though I agree with the basic premise that the HST (High Speed Train) did indeed usher in 'The Age of the Train', I did think it odd (and unfair) that no mention was made of what was then called 'The Sparks Effect', when new electric locos pulling improved carriages were introduced on the West Coast main line in the 1960s.

As a young journalist working on a local newspaper (yes, I have managed to come full circle) I remember writing an article about 'The Ton-up Train' and pointing out the increased passenger numbers travelling from Liverpool and Manchester to London and having the satisfaction of looking out of the train window on the section where the railway line parallels the M1 and seeing the cars being left behind.

You could make a case for saying the new electric service paved the way for the HST and now of course is superseding it (on the Great Western and East Coast routes anyway). But, in the 1980s the Inter City 125 did make a great impression, and many regular rail patrons regret its passing.

Trouble is though, in showing the HST at its finest and best, the programme also underlines how many of its finer points have been lost.

Many of the scenes in the programme showed passengers (I refuse to call myself a 'customer', or worse, 'guest') enjoying a leisurely full meal in the restaurant car and enthusing about the cooking arrangements installed in this new train. Find me a proper restaurant car on any train these days. Meals of a sort are available on Virgin's tilting trains, but you could hardly call it fine dining.

I once had a truly splendid silver service dinner on a train from Scotland to London, but perhaps oddly, that is not the one I most remember. That was on a rather more humble service from Norwich to the capital one weekday afternoon.

In those seemingly far off days (actually, again in the 1980s), the London-Norwich trains boasted not only a full buffet car service on all trains throughout the day, but a restaurant car serving breakfast, lunch or dinner at appropriate times, and also - and even then I think probably uniquely - High Tea on afternoon departures.

I took advantage of this one day, having been working in Norwich, having travelled from my then home in Colchester and making my way via London to Liverpool to spend the weekend with my family. I had an excellent small meal of grilled plaice, fried potatoes and peas, followed by a toasted teacake and a pot of tea. Absolutely civilised and great!

Another thing I think may have been lost (and I really hope I'm wrong on this) is the Sardine Supreme sandwich - one of the vastly-improved range of sandwiches brought in to replace the old and soggy British Railways kind. I always bought one from the kiosk on Colchester station before starting out for Liverpool on a Friday afternoon. They also did a good line in egg and tomato as well, and I never figured out how they prevented that from sogginess, but they did.

I do understand the reasons why train catering has slumped from the Golden Age of the HST. Cost, of course, is one but really I believe the main culprit is ourselves. Far more folk let the train take the strain nowadays, and the poor things are bursting at the seams.

So what to do? On long-distance trains at least, squash in an extra row of seats or two in each carriage and get rid entirely of the catering vehicles. So it's all our own fault then.

But the really strange thing is that the old adage 'You Get What You Pay For' is stood on its head. Instead of paying for a good meal in comfort on the train, you pay more for the privilege of getting less. Less space, less comfort and no food or drink!

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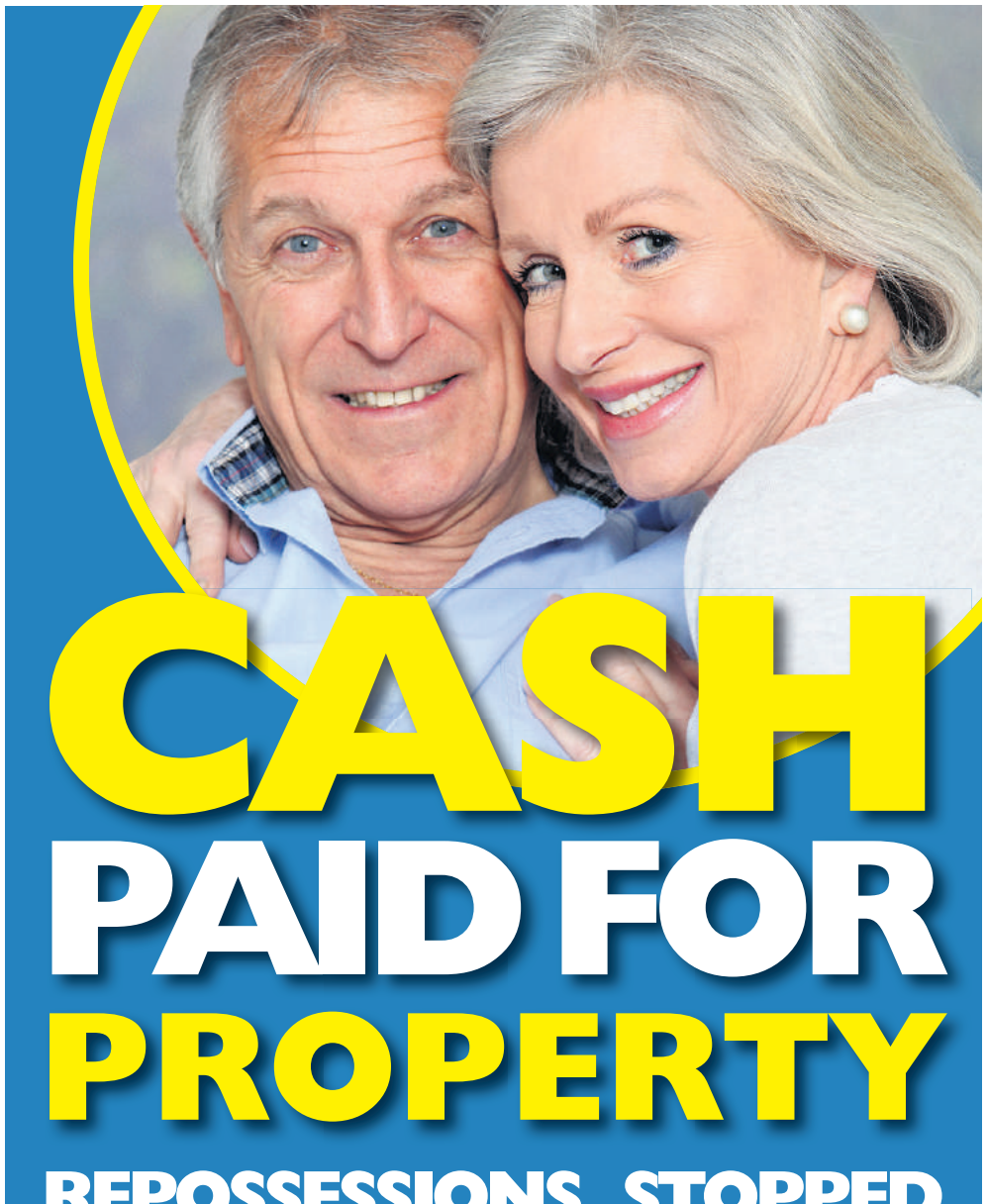

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During Dementia Action Week **Ableworld** have been busy actively supporting the Alzheimer's Society whilst making our customers more aware of the importance of Dementia, and how we can allow others to understand it more.

Within local newspapers we have been advertising Dementia Friendly products that we stock in our stores, and the reasons these products are ideal for a person living with Dementia.

On our Social Media platforms we have been sharing stories and videos from Alzheimer's Society to further raise the awareness of Dementia. Furthermore on our website we have produced a blog post highlighting our support with the Dementia Friends initiative and online Dementia friendly products.

Finally as part of our **Ableworld** initiative to make all our staff Dementia Friendly, we have carried out more Information Sessions to our employees. **Ableworld** have a number of employees who have become Dementia Champions which enables them to hold these Information Sessions.

If you would like to become a Dementia Friend visit the website www.dementiafriends.org.uk or if you feel you can help by volunteering in any other way please visit www.alzheimers.org.uk/getinvolved.

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Not long until Legally Blonde returns to Empire

THERE is not long to go now until Legally Blonde the Musical comes to the Liverpool Empire from June 5-9.

EastEnders' Rita Simons and Lucie Jones, who represented the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest with Never Give Up On You and Bill Ward, star of Coronation Street and Emmerdale star in this new UK tour of the smash-hit Broadway and West End musical Legally Blonde The Musical.

Legally Blonde The Musical also has two dogs in the cast, a Chihuahua called Bruiser and another called Rufus, a big, brutish, dog that only its mother could love.

Legally Blonde The Musical is an all singing, all dancing romantic comedy, a fun-filled, feel-good pink fest.

College sweetheart and homecoming queen Elle Woods, doesn't take no for an answer.

When her boyfriend dumps her for someone more serious, Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books and heads for Harvard Law School. Along the way, Elle proves that being true to yourself never goes out of style.

Based on the Reese Witherspoon film, Legally Blonde The Musical earned seven Tony nominations and 10 Drama Desk Award nominations during its Broadway run.

In the UK it was nominated for four Laurence Olivier Awards winning three including Best New Musical, and was nominated for eight Whatsonstage Awards winning four including Best Musical.

Rita Simons (Paulette Bonafonte) is best known for playing Roxy Mitchell in BBC's EastEnders for which she has won numerous awards and is one of Britain's best loved actresses.

She won Most Popular Newcomer at the National Television Awards and other awards and nominations include Best Newcomer at the Digital Spy Soap Awards, Best Onscreen Partnership for her character partnership with Ronnie Mitchell played by Samantha Womack, Best Newcomer at the TV

Legally Blonde Elle with her Greek Chorus

Now Awards, a nomination for Best Newcomer at the 2008 British Soap Awards and Best Newcomer at the 2008 Inside Soap Awards.

Lucie Jones (Elle Woods) is currently playing Maureen in the 20th anniversary UK tour of Rent.

Her previous theatre credits include: Elle Woods in Legally Blonde (Leicester Curve); Molly in Ghost (Asian Tour); Victoria in American Psycho (The Almeida); Meatloaf in We Will Rock You (International Tour); Kelly Byrne in The Prodigals (Edinburgh Festival); Cosette in Les Miserables (Queens Theatre, West End and O2 Arena).

Her TV acting credits includes: Melody Carver in Midsomer Murders (ITV); Louise in The Sarah Jane Adventures (BBC). Lucie was a finalist in the 2009 series of The X Factor.

Bill Ward (Professor Callahan) is best known for his work on two of the country's leading soaps.

He has just finished three years in Emmerdale, playing farmer James Barton (Ross, Pete and Finn's Dad) for over 300 episodes, who met a gruesome, death at the hands of his emotionally volatile partner, Emma, in one of the biggest storylines of the year.

Singer-songwriter performing at Civic

SINGER-SONGWRITER Chris Bannister is to perform at Ormskirk Civic Hall on Friday, June 8.

Chris began his career in the late 1980s as part of a four piece rock band.

In 1992 he released his first solo album Only Human which was recorded in Liverpool with keyboard player Bob Galvin as producer. The album gained immediate recognition from Bob Harris who was with Radio One at the time and a follow up single in 1993 We Were Children became a record of the week on Radio Two.

Subsequently, his live shows were enthusiastically received and, being much in demand, Chris spent the next few years focussed on extensive touring, with up to 200 live performances a year before releasing his second album Colours which he once again toured extensively.

In 2001 Chris recorded the album October Already at Revolution Studios in Cheshire. This was produced by Andy McPherson and Justin Richards and featured Roy Martin on drums and Sad Cafe's Ian Wilson on backing vocals and guitar. Follow up album 'Don't Forget Forgive' featured many of the same musicians and production team was also critical and commercial success.

Chris Bannister

October Already and Don't Forget Forgive served to cement Chris's reputation as a songwriter and performer of exceptional quality.

In 2010 Chris began touring with his solo show The Music of John Denver celebrating the life and work of the legendary singer/songwriter in his own unique way. Unlike "lookalike" tributes, Chris's uncanny ability to recreate the sound of John Denver has brought him widespread acclaim.

It is a testament to his talent that Chris now has an international reputation and no surprise to learn that he regularly performs in Aspen Colorado to sell out audiences.

Chris has worked alongside Wrecking Crew saxophonist and flautist Jim Horn who was the longest serving musician in Denver's band. Chris also worked with John Denver's legendary lead guitar player Steve Weisberg, who played on hits like Annie's Song Back Home Again and Grandma's Feather Bed. Steve sadly passed away for years ago, in recognition of Chris's work in honouring the music of John Denver, Steve bequeathed his 1937 Epiphone guitar to Chris in his will.

Chris most recent album entitled The Unicorn and Other Stories is a collection of Nova Scotian folk songs with entirely new arrangements and melodies which has delighted Chris's existing fans and served to introduce Chris to a new audience .

Shirley Ballas is to appear in Empire pantomime

Queen of Latin 'excited' about pantomime part

Interview by **Henry James**

HEAD judge on BBC's Strictly Come Dancing Shirley Ballas, who has danced all over the world, is to make her acting and panto debut and will lead the cast at this year's Liverpool Empire pantomime.

The Wallasey-born 'Queen of Latin' will star as Mother Nature in Jack and the Beanstalk, which will start performances from Friday, December 14.

She told the Champion: "Fee-fi-fo-fum I am doing panto and it is going to be a lot of fun. I have got a good sense of humour and I can laugh at myself. I'm excited to be able to transport audiences to another world and forget everything and truly get immersed in the show. It promises to be a fantastic show.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to bits to play Mother Nature at the Empire. It is going to be a challenge for me as I have not done this sort of performance before. However to do this has always been a dream of mine and I'm ecstatic about the offer and the part.

"I hope to have some dance routines. If not, I will make some of my own Cha-Cha routines on the spot."

Shirley took over from Len Goodman as head judge of Strictly Come Dancing and she was a hit with the audiences.

She commented: "I enjoyed my first season it was a very challenging role and I loved every minute of it. It was an experience of a lifetime.

"I have been in this industry all my life and I have known Lenny for many years, so I wasn't filling his shoes. I was bringing my own shoes to the table. You have to have your own version.

"Some of the highlights included when Simon Rimmer danced to You'll Never Walk Alone. Each person brought something special to the show. I enjoyed the moment when the Reverend came down from the cloud too. Debbie McGee was also fantastic.

"It is difficult having to see performers go home though as everyone on the show become such a family."

The Liverpool Empire's Theatre Director, Diane Belding said: "Strictly Come Dancing is one of the most popular programmes on television so who better to star in Liverpool's best pantomime than judge, Shirley Ballas. I'm sure Empire audiences will be as excited as we are to see Shirley returning home to Merseyside and performing live on the Empire stage."

SDC close their season with comedy

Preview: SDC Bar production at the Little Theatre, Southport
Same Time, Next Year

THIS year's SDC Bar Production, directed by Lynne Hawksworth, is one of the most popular plays of the century, Same Time, Next Year by Bernard Slade.

It ran for four years on Broadway, winning a Tony Award for lead actress Ellen Burstyn, who later recreated her role in the successful motion picture. It remains one of the world's most widely produced plays.

Les Gomersall and Trudi Hirsch star in this intriguing romantic comedy about a love affair between two people who, despite both being happily married to others, spend a clandestine night together at the same time every year.

A quarter of a century of manners and morals are hilariously and touchingly played out during these secret trysts.

Same Time, Next Year runs from Tues, June 5 to Sat, June 9 at 7.30pm each evening at the Little Theatre, Southport. Tickets from the Box Office. Tel 01704 530521/530460.

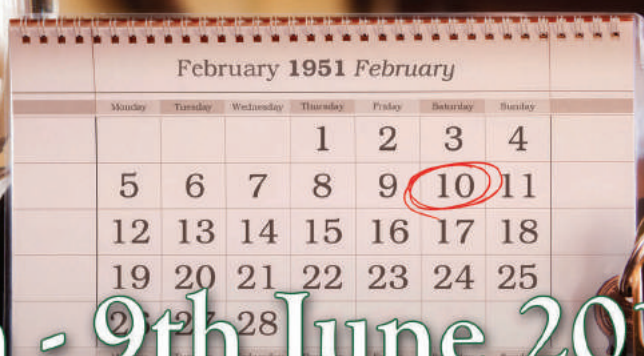
Southport Dramatic Club

An SDC Bar Production

Same Time Next Year

By Bernard Slade

Directed by Lynne Hawksworth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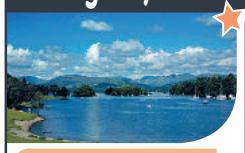

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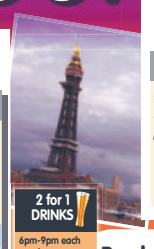

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GARDENING

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OLD GALVANISED dustbin, rubber lid, little bit of rust £5 07805 484381

GARDENING

COMPOST BINS Good order,little used. Sliding entry £5.00 Pair 01704 566788

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TAKAMINE DSF48C Santa Fe guitar, on board tuner/per amp, 20 presets to alter reverb, £600 01695 727080

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HOUSE AND HOME

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TV STAND Black glass, 3 shelves £10 01704 548684

MIRROR Brown leather surround £25.00 07756597703

HALL TABLE Glass top antique gold metal frame H30xW35in £30 01695 576078

WALL MIRROR Silver framed mirror W50in x H26in £20 01695 576078

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ERCOL SHELF Ercol plate shelf teak colour good condition.37" x 17"wide.£25 01704 891371

ARM CHAIR Stokers Reclining Electric Arm Chair in Dusty Pink Velvet - £50 07719349370

SLOW COOKER Oval Morphy Richards 3.5L white and silver. Nice condition. £15 07704 785755

SOFA Light grey chenille next 3 seater sofa good condition.free to good home must be collected a.s.a.p 01704 543916

KUVINGS SLOW Juicer, very powerful, press type, as new in box, only tried once. £195. 01704 530137

CURTAINS Satin sheen pale copper colour fit pole 87in drop 84in fully lined pinch pleat heading £70 01695 576078

JACK VETTRIANO Print Lady sitting at Window Black frame W34in H26in £30 01695 576078

LAMP TABLE Glass top wood & metal frame modern design H21in Top 26x22in £40 01695 576078

TABLE LAMP 3 globed Glass stand with John Lewis neutral silk pleated shade H20in £20 01695 576078

ADJUSTAMATIC BED Electric , single with mattress , very good condition cost £1400 sell for £500 ono 07944170185

HOUSE AND HOME

CABIN BED Full size, sturdy and excellently condition . Four drawers. Solid base.£15 07823779449

CUPBOARD, beech coloured with two draws. H 85cm x W 80cm x D 39cm. Excellent condition. £30 01704 575034

LAMP TABLE Modern wooden lamp table in excellent condition from Multiyork £45 01704564732

HOUSE AND HOME

DECORATIVE TABLE With six chairs highly polished would make great centre piece.Pictures supplied £165 07767790187

EXCELLENT MATTRESS single - for caravan use or small bunk bed, £10, not used, clean. £20 to deliver local 01704 884564

FIRE SURROUND carved mahogany wood type, light weight, can deliver, cost £400, sell for £100 - no offers 01704 884564

HOUSE AND HOME

IKEA INGO table, 120x75cm, pine, excellent condition, less than half price £15 07805 484381

SOFA BED Brown sofa bed, bed been used once only. Bought in Stokers Southport. £750.00 01695572830

SOFA Laura Ashley Mortimer 2 Seater Fabric Sofa,Colour Natural. 2 available,£180 each. Buyer to collect 07972421282

HOUSE AND HOME

COFFEE TABLES nest of three glass top coffee tables,mahogany in colour buyer collects £20 Southport 07896815816

GOLD AND Black Trim Mirror excellent Conditon 28 x 40 (cross by area). £40.00. If interested, please call 07989677525

DRESSING TABLE Light oak dressing table with 3 high gloss shiny draws good condition £40 07823884687

ARM CHAIR Stokers Traditional Winged Chair in Neutral Beige Upholstery - Almost New -£60 07719349370

BENSONS MATTRESS Minsk Double mattress, L76ins, W53ins, hardly used, firm, vgc, Formby, Cost £329 - Sell £150 07986 674821

NEXT TABLE Rectangular 180cm walnut coloured next dining table seats 6 good condition cost new £395 accept £75 01704 543916

WALL LIGHTS 4 double wall lights and fittings silver modern but ornate (difficult to describe) excellent condition £40 01704220356

IKEA CABINATE Teak,31" long. Mirror backed. One shelf 6"deep. Sliding vertical mirror21"high. New with all fittings £10 pickup Crossens area 07591482956

KENWOOD CHEF Food mixer model KM300, in white, as new very rarely used, with beater, whisk and doughhook, plus cover. £75. 01704 530137

KITCHEN CHAIRS Four white John Lewis kitchen chairs with stainless steel legs.Excellent new kitchen forces sale. £50. 07966764826

OLD CHARM sideboard. 2 cupboard and 3 middle drawers. 162w x81h x46d. Genuine article in very good condition. Buyer collects. £50 01695 575820

HIGH GLOSS white narrow floor cupboard 86cm high x 25cm wide x 29cm deep. 2 shelves. Excellent condition. £25 01704 575034

COFFEE TABLE Modern glass coffee table with two smaller tables that neatly fit underneath Excellent quality £59 01704564733

EXTERNAL DOORHANDLES gold colour will fit uvpc door could be used to re-vamp/ change the look of a old door £10.00 01695 322096

CAKE STANDS 4 new glass cake stands one tier great for afternoon tea nice shapes £4 each no text or withheld number 07504685036

HOUSE AND HOME

CONSERVATORY FURNITURE One 2 seater settee and one chair in dark brown rattan with cream cushions. Excellent condition. £250 ono. 07875947438

CONSOLE TABLE black tempered glass and chrome, L 135cm D 40cm H 68cm, ex-Stokers, excellent condition, £150 07719 447871

DINING TABLE elegant glass top with four chairs, antique bronze wrought iron legs, neutral covered seats plus matching nest tables, vgc £500 07752 886940

DISPLAY SHELVING Stripped tree root with three tiers, ideal conservatory/shop, 76cm x 50cm, buyer removes, Hesketh Bank area, £20 01772 813222

FREEZER £65 Adler typewriter £55. Pressure cooker £7. 6' Christmas tree £15. Quarter £50. Lambretta book £20. Hornby ins book £10 0151 5266884

FRIDGE MASTER built under freezer, model MTBZ102NG, 3 drawers, good working order, instruction book £45 01772 812767

MODERN GLASS dining table, four cream chairs, lovely design with matching coffee table, very good condition, cost £800 new, £80 0151 5271013

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HOUSE AND HOME

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FARQUESON WINTER Themed Picture with Pale Gold Frame w37.5 x H27.5 - £25.00 Excellent Condition. if interested please call Gill 07989677525

VICTORIAN BEDSTEAD M&S pretty cream metal double, L79ins, W56ins, H54in,14 wood slats, dismantled to collect, vgc, Formby, Cost £349 - sell £195 07986 674821

BOILER REMOTE CONTROL Siemans Cost £70.Bargain £35. only 3 months use due to getting New boiler fitted with its own control.Crossens area 07591482956

CEILING LIGHT Linear light 3 downlights on gold coloured frame cream glassshades suit narrow hall or over table W37in Drop min/max19/25in £45 01695 576078

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TILED FIREPLACE Looks great would be ideal for renovation works .Traditional centre piece. Pictures supplied.Complete with surround and fire. £85 07767790187

HOUSE AND HOME

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PINE STAND Waxed pine unit with shelves and door. Height 94cm, depth 21.5cm, width 29.5cm. Good for corner of room. Excellent condition. 07858046342

SWIVEL CHAIR Nut brown leather. Adjustable recliner. complete with matching stool unmarked perfect condition save yourself £100 Bargain £90 for quick sale. 07751285336

MISC

TV STAND Black glass. Excellent condition. £10.00 07756597703

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ELECTRIC FAN Oscillating table top fan 12" diameter vintage Woolworths. Good working order £20 07704 785755

MISC

BALCONY FENCE Canvas Cover, black, with attachment ropes, never used, 5M x 0.9M, £10, Burscough 01704 892452

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floors and a cinema area for the benefit of all. Damfield Gardens is Access controlled and CCTV has been introduced throughout.

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If you would like to enquire about Damfield Gardens Care Home, please contact:

Alison Brownbill – Operations Director
Damfield Gardens Care Home,
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2nd June 2017
Missed and loved

From Mum,Brother Quinton and Claire,Micheala,Ken and Ivan (from Rochdale)

Loved always

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IN MEMORIAM

DURNIN
BERYL
In Loving Memory of our Mum and Nanna
29 May 2009
Remembered today and everyday Mum."Never more than a thought away". Dearly loved and Deeply missed.Val and Dean.xxxxxxxxx

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PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

T.K

PRAYERS

PRAYER TO ST JUDE

May the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, and loved in all the tabernacles until the end of time.

Amen.

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised and glorified now and forever.

Amen.

St. Jude pray for us and hear our prayers. Amen.

Blessed be the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Blessed be the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Blessed be St. Jude Thaddeus, in all the world and for all Eternity.

Our Father

Hail Mary

Say for 9 days and prayers will be answered and the prayer must be published.

T.K

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DEATHS

DE VARES VENILDE MARIA DUARTE PACHECO

After a short illness in Wigan Infirmary on 13th May 2018 aged 81 years

Much loved Mother of Armando, Rui, the late Paulo Renato, Paulo and Luis, Mother in law of Maureen and Hayley, Grandmother of Anton, Kerry, Rui, Natalie, Kieran, Martin, Paulo, Chantelle and Imana, Great Grandmother of Emelia, Rhiarna, Izaac, Sonny, Jake, Thomas, Jamie, Luke, Luchia, Tayah Lily, Sorenne, Rocco and Joseph. Beloved sister of Antonio Eugenio, Sister in law of Esmeria, a treasured Auntie and Friend. Funeral service at St Teresa's Church, Upholland on Friday 1st June 2018 at 10:30a.m. followed by burial at St Teresa's Cemetery. The family request that mourners wear bright and colourful clothes in celebration of Venilde's life. No flowers, donations only please if desired to, The Meningitis Research Organisation or Headway c/o R Banks & Son (Funerals) Ltd, 758-768 Ormskirk Rd Wigan WN5 8BB Tel: 01942 222156

DEATHS

TITTERSHILL BRYAN ERNEST

19th May 2018 aged 79 years

Loving Husband of Elizabeth. Bryan will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service to be held on Monday 4th June at West Lancashire Crematorium commencing at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please but if desired, donations in memory of Bryan to Kidney Research UK, c/o Hunters of Ormskirk Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk, L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572997

GREEN LILIAN (nee Macaulay)

May 18th 2018
Peacefully at home aged 93 years

Beloved Wife of the late Richard. Much loved Mum and Mum-in-law of Steve, Hilary, Jeanette and Rob. Loving Nana and Great Nana of Kath, Brendon, Netty, Hannah, Sam, Shannon, William, Ted, Autumn, James and Matilda. Funeral service and cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Monday June 4th 2018 at 12:00 noon. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, for Marie Curie c/o Graham J Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, L31 5JB Tel:0151 520 3330 or at www.cleggfunerals.co.uk

DEATHS

LAMBERT CYNTHIA BETTY

19th May 2018
Aged 86 years

Died Peacefully Cynthia will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at Lord Street West United Church on Tuesday 5th June at 11:30am followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for North West Air Ambulance. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

To place a family **announcement** please call 01704 392392 or visit champnews.com

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DEATHS

PETHERBRIDGE SHEILA

After a long illness peacefully at home on 22nd May aged 76 years

Much loved Wife of Stan. Much loved Mum of Samantha and Nicola Loving Nana of Michaela, Elizabeth, Thomas, Hannah, Connor and Jon Great Nana of Amelia and Jacob. Dear Sister of Brian, Pamela, Adrian, the late Audrey and Colin. Sheila will be sadly missed by all her family and friends Funeral service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 4th June at 10:00am. Family Flowers only by request please but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Queenscourt Hospice. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

BAYLEY MARGARET

18th May 2018
Aged 91 years

Dearly loved Sister of the late Bill, Sister-in-law of Dorothy. Aunty to Joanne and Cousin to Adrian. Margaret will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 31st May at 12:40pm. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Diabetes UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

MASON AGNES FREDERICA (nee Bradshaw)

17th May 2018
Formerly of Mossley Hill now of Skelmersdale.
Peacefully in hospital surrounded by her loving family aged 77 years

Loving Wife of the late Derek, devoted Mum of Raymond, Philip, Steven and Paul. Cherished Nan, Great Nan and Great Great Nan of all her Grandchildren and a dear Mother-in-law. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 4th June at 12.15pm. Formal dress not required, family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Marie Curie. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane, Skelmersdale Tel: 01695 559868

GILBERT MICHAEL (MIKE)

18th May 2018
Aged 71 years

Dearly loved Son of the late Jane and Lucien, a sadly missed Brother and Uncle. Greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 5th June at 2:40pm. All enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086

To place a family **announcement** please call 01704 392392 or visit champnews.com

DEATHS

MACKENZIE IAIN

Peacefully at home on 24th May 2018 aged 77 years

Much loved Husband of Beryl. Dear Brother of Carole and Paul. A much loved Uncle of all his Nieces, Nephews, Great Nieces and Great Nephews. Iain will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service and commital will take place at West Lancs Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough L40 7SP on Tuesday 5th June at 1pm followed by a service of celebration and thanksgiving at Christ Church, Aughton L39 5AS at 1.45pm. Family flowers only but donations to be shared between British Heart Foundation, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation and Parkinsons UK. Further enquiries W.H. Hull Funeral Directors, 81 Church Road, Tarleton, PR4 6UP. Tel: 01772 812409

LYNESS ROBERT

Passed away peacefully in hospital 19th May 2018 aged 70 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Husband of Sylvia, loving Dad of Tracy, Robert & Michelle. A wonderful and devoted Grandad to all his Grandchildren and a much loved Brother, Uncle and Nephew. He will be sadly missed by all his family. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 5th June 2018 at 11:30am. Floral tributes welcome or donations for the NSPCC. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

SULLIVAN TERRY

It is with deepest sadness that we announce the death of our Dad, Terry Sullivan who died in the The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust on the 9th of April 2018. An invitation to celebrate the life of Terry is extended to his family and friends on 1st June at 1PM at: West Lancashire Cemetery & Crematorium, Pippin St, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancashire L40 7SP. The family have asked that donations would be gratefully received instead of flowers , to the dedicated staff of the Walton Centre who cared so well for Terry in his final hours. The address is as follows: The Walton Centre Charity Fundraising Office, Main Reception, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Lower Lane, Fazakerley L9 7LJ.

Further enquiries and donations to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane Tarleton PR4 6RJ. Telephone 01772 811165

HAWKSWORTH JOAN MARY

20th May 2018
Aged 93 years

Much loved Mother of Jean, Philip, Gail, Linda, John and Paul. Loving Grandmother and Great Grandmother to all her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service to take place at Liverpool Road Methodist Church Birkdale on Tuesday 5th June at 2:15pm followed by committal at Southport Crematorium at 3:20pm. Family flowers only but if desired donations to Queenscourt Hospice c/o Broadbent and Seddon Funeral Directors, 33 Liverpool Road, Southport PR8 4AG. Tel: 01704 550055

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

McCUSKER GEORGE

Linda would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations for North West Cancer Research received during the recent sad loss of George. Thanks to the staff at Southport Hospital for their kindness and care, Rev. Sue Guenault for her comforting ministrations and Sally Hunter and team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their professional help and dignified funeral arrangements.

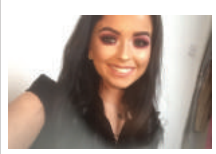
WILKIE ALMA

Bob and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, sympathy cards and floral tributes received during the recent sad loss of Alma, special thanks to Eleanor West of St Paul's Church for her kind ministrations and to Margaret and Linda of Skelmersdale Funeral Service for their dignified Funeral arrangements

BIRTHDAYS

CHLOE TEACHEN

Happy 21st Birthday
29th May



Big Happy 21st Birthday Sweet P lots of love big hugs and sloppy kisses Mum Graham James and Family xxx

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Licensing Act 2003
Notice of application for a new application of premises licence

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Hours of operation 12pm - 6am and to add the following licensable activities retail of alcohol.
The application may be inspected at West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Section, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale WN8 8EE, between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm on Monday to Friday inclusive. Brief details can also be obtained from the Councils website www.weatlancs.gov.uk/licensing.
Any 'interested party' may make representations in writing to the Council regarding the application before 20th June 2018.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

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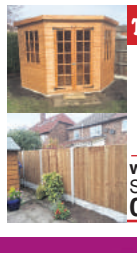

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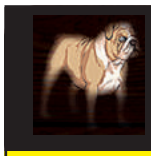

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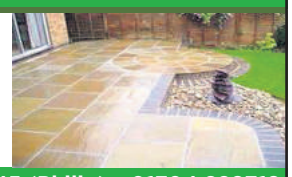

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IF you want to know who the gatekeepers are when it comes to what is – and what isn't – a classic car, you have to think literally. Often, it's the people in hi-vis jackets manning the entrances at your nearest car show.

Normally if I'm approaching in my MGB, I could put my house on being waved through with a warm smile (unless it's a show catering solely for hotted-up Subarus, of course), but I've approached in many a car where it could go either way.

At one show I was given an appreciative nod because I'd shown up in an MG ZR, which for all its rock-hard suspension and mesh grille is basically your mum's Rover 25 with a snazzier badge.

Yet barely a week later a Ford Puma, a swoopy coupe that did wonders for Ford's image when it was new, was met with a solemn expression and an outstretched arm pointing me in the direction of the public car park, alongside all the Vauxhall Insignias and Kia Cee'ds.

So what advice could I give the chap who emailed from Crosby the other day, pondering whether his beloved Volkswagen Lupo GTI has made it to classic car-dom?

This petite hot hatch is essentially the early Noughties predecessor to today's Up GTI, and shares its no-frills, lightness-added sense of fun. A lot of what made the original Golf so much fun lives on in both. It has an awful lot going for it, but because it's the equivalent of an 18-year-old queuing up for a nightclub with a freshly-shaven face, wearing trainers – I wouldn't be surprised to see it being turned away at the door.

The Lupo GTI has a few years yet before it'll be accepted just about everywhere – turn up at Goodwood or Brooklands in one, for instance, and the gatekeepers will probably laugh – but show up to one of the many Veedub-specific shows across the country this summer and it'll be met with appreciative nods and quiet mutterings of what a corking – and rare – car it is.

Despite the Government's best efforts there is no hard and fast rule as to what constitutes a classic car, and I'm glad that there isn't. One of the questions my Lupo-owning friend pondered was whether cars made between 2000 and 2010 now count as classics, but it'd be too simplistic to argue that a mid-spec Toyota Auris, for instance, is one simply because it was made in the same era as the little GTI. The Teletubbies got to number one barely a few weeks after The Verve's *Bitter Sweet Symphony* didn't – but does that mean they have stood the test of time?

Some things become classics overnight, and for some it's a slow-burning process that takes decades.

I've always reckoned the most important thing is how much time and love people put into them – and it's the same for VW Lupos, Morris Minors, Triumph motorcycles, steam locomotives and copies of *Bitter Sweet Symphony*.

Just be prepared for a man in a hi-vis jacket to disagree with you.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Last pair recovery act is not enough to save Burscough

BURSCOUGH were well beaten at Fleetwood Hesketh after a disastrous start to their innings.

Their decision to bat first looked doomed from the start as they slumped to 34-9.

The last pair of Josh Murray 31 and Craig McAnaney 13* added 55 for the final wicket as they were finally dismissed for 89, with Paul Mullen swinging his way to 5-9 and Gavin Dickenson taking 3-24.

In reply, the hosts slipped to 14-3 and 40-4, before order was restored by skipper Scott Rimmer 21* and his brother Lee Rimmer 41* who took Fleetwood to victory on 91-4.

Elsewhere in the Liverpool Competition First Division, Southport & Birkdale made light work of defeating Liverpool at Trafalgar Road, the visitors won the toss, elected to bat and collapsed from 50-0 to 100 with opener Sam Holliday scoring almost half of them with 42, whilst skipper Chris Firth spun his way to 4-44.

Last pair add 55 after disastrous start to innings saw them slump to 34-9

In reply, Bradley Yates took his seasons run tally past 300 with an unbeaten 77* and Isaac Lea also carried his bat with 19 not out as S&B raced to 103-0 to wrap up victory and close the gap on the leaders to five points with a game in hand.

Ainsdale held on for a home draw against the leaders Orrell Red Triangle, the visitors were asked to bat and duly racked up 234-2 dec, thanks to runs from Richard Everett 89*, Minhaj Bhada 59, Chris Riley 44* and skipper Andy Mottram with 34.

In reply, Mark Lucas top scored with 46 as the hosts hung on for the draw on 114-7, with Joe Lowe's unbeaten 5* off 65 deliveries seeing them through to the close.

Ormskirk fall short against Northern

ORMSKIRK suffered a 40 run home defeat to Northern on Saturday who remain in second place in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division.

The visitors chose to bat and eventually declared after 57.2 overs on 180-7, with Justin Snow 48* and Hayden McCrae 45 top scoring.

In reply, John Armstrong 56, Ian Robinson 27 and Alex Rankin 25 all weighed in with useful runs for Ormksirk, before the rest were largely undone by the spin of Snow who took 2-11 off 9 overs and Tom Sephton who took his seasons tally to 25 with 4-54 off 18 as the hosts were bowled out for 140.

The top of the table remains the same after early season pacesetters Formby recorded a convincing ten wicket win at Lytham.

The hosts who elected to bat were dismissed for 122 with Taylor Cornall top scoring with 30, whilst the rest struggled to cope with the accurate bowling of Lukman Vahaluwala 6-15 and Sabbir Patel 3-44.

In reply, Ireland's William Porterfield 72* and Lancashire's Hameed 48* looked untroubled as they eased the visitors to a maximum point victory on 123-0.

Bootle were beaten by 31 runs in a low scoring contest at Rainhill, the hosts decided to bat first with Akshay Darekar 26 and Matthew Fletcher 24 top scoring in a below par total of 125, with Bharat Tripathi taking 7-47.

In reply, Danny Davies top scored with 29 as the visitors slumped to 94 all out, with Darekar 6-34 and David Atkinson 4-33 taking every wicket to fall.

Northern's Hayden McCrae who scored 45 against Ormskirk.

Batsmen break records for club's highest ever trophy total of 391

IT was a record breaking day at Brook Lane on Sunday when Ormskirk racked up a massive total of 391-4, their highest ever score in a 45 over game, to beat Ainsdale in the Ray Digman Trophy.

Ian Robinson and Jonny Glayzer took apart the Ainsdale bowling in a remarkable club record fourth wicket partnership of 279 runs.

Glayzer was eventually dismissed for 124 runs off 82 balls including fifteen 4s and two 6s.

Robinson was still there at the end of the innings having made 177 runs off 119 balls to include seventeen 4s and five 6s, the highest ever recorded individual inings for the club.

Ainsdale were then bowled out for 190 with the wickets being shared by the bowlers and with Ian Robinson adding to his day's achievements by taking two wickets and netting a catch.

Jonny Glayzer.

Bohannon makes his debut for Lancashire in cup match

ORMSKIRK and former Skelmersdale player Josh Bohannon made his debut for Lancashire this week.

He was due to make his debut in Lancashire's Royal London one day match at Blackpool against Warickshire on Friday but the rain meant the match was abandoned before he could take to the field.

He eventually did make his debut appearance on Sunday for Lancashire at Worcester.

He scored 13 runs batting at number eight and then bowled six overs for 40 runs but could not prevent Worcestershire winning the match with a ball to spare.

Josh Bohannon.

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